Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 38 | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

SVES project gives way to GTC renovation. PAGE 5

Inouyi thanked for GAO study on NMI, A. Samoa. PAGE 18

CNMI to ask for suspension of minimum wage hikes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will be asking the chairman of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee, George Miller, to suspend the automatic minimum wage hike in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa in view of "significant economic difficulties" in the two U.S. territories.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has drafted a letter addressed to Miller, which essentially supports a letter written earlier by American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega.

The draft letter so far has the signature

See CNMI on Page 4

IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERALIZATION LAW

Kilili appeals to DHS chief for delay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan on Wednesday asked U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to delay by 180 days the implementation of the transition period for federal immigration in the CNMI.

Sablan

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday said he plans to personally hand to Napolitano a similar request letter when he arrives in Washington, D.C. next week for various meetings.

Sablan, during a press conference call yesterday morn-

See KILILI on Page 4

FROM FISCAL YEARS 2007 TO 2009

$8.84M in local poker fees remain 'untouched'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some $8.8 million in local poker fees that have been allocated for several projects on Saipan are still sitting on the sidelines and waiting to be transferred.

The amount, which covers fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, remains

See POKER on Page 4

Administration to sponsor standalone austerity measure

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is sponsoring a standalone bill that will provide for austerity measures that include the reinstatement of austerity Fridays/unpaid holidays and a reduction in the employer contribution to the Retirement Fund

See ADMINISTRATION on Page 4

LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE REY BELGADO

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Muna are recognized as the longest married couple in the CNMI during the World Marriage Day celebrations held Feb. 7, 2009, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The Munas have been married for 66 years and are blessed with many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Saturday's event was hosted by the CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community. *See related story on Page 8*

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution be placed on the ballot in 2011?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

136 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

$790B Stimulus

Congress and the White House have agreed on a compromise $790 billion economic stimulus bill.

NATION...Page 22

Most Bankable

Will Smith was voted the most bankable star in Hollywood in a survey by Forbes.com.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

Local

U.S. IMMIGRATION

GREENCARD AND NATURALIZATION PROCESSING

EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTOR'S VISA SERVICES ALSO AVAILABLE

For inquiries call:

The Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar
San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
Phone (670) 234-8801/235-5466

Economic summit scheduled

An economic summit that aims to identify industries to either introduce or further develop within the CNMI has been set for April 2, 2009.

Ada

The economic summit—an idea supported by members of the Legislature and community members—will be sponsored by the CNMI Department of Commerce and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

According to Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, the summit will be preceded by a public session and a government session, culminating in a summit on April 2, 2009.

The identification of industries that will replace the garment industry and supplement the visitor industry will be based on assessments of current strengths and barriers in the CNMI. The public session will be geared toward soliciting information from the public as to the strengths and barriers of doing business in the CNMI, as well as potential industries to be focused on in the CNMI for purposes of long-term economic sustainability.

The government session will be aimed at providing recommendations to the Legislative and Executive branches to ensure that the CNMI is conducive to these identified industries. The actual summit will culminate on April 2, 2009 and be geared toward providing the outcomes of both the public session and the government sessions.

"The goal is not to rehash what the problems are. …It is an effort to pro-actively identify a focused plan on development of new industries," said Ada.

Ado noted that the goal of this economic summit differs from the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy project, which is geared toward identifying project priorities rather than industries.

Ada emphasized that this effort will be done in partnership with the private sector, using focus groups before summit sessions "to ensure that the government is not doing this in a vacuum."

"While some may say that the private sector should spearhead this effort and could probably do it better than the government, it is my belief that this should be done as a partnership, because the government does play an important role in economic development," said Ada. "Private sector businesses are concerned with trying to survive in tough economic times and shouldn't bear the burden of economic development."

Further summit details will be released in the coming weeks as the CDA and the Department of Commerce move forward with the summit project. Commerce and CDA will be including the public in the planning sessions. ***(PR)***

Tinian beaches get green flag

The Division of Environment Quality has given 10 sites on Tinian green flags after none of the samples collected from the locations contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm water drainage as part of its regularly scheduled sampling.

The agency said Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports by sending an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(PR)***

Live the Fiesta Way!
FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN Celebrates Valentine's Day for Couples
SPA & DINNER PACKAGE
For only $129.99
30 minute massage for two with a glass of Cook's champagne during the spa treatment.
An evening of romantic dinner for two at Claret and a bottle of red or white Tin Roof Wine that will complement our exquisite menu.
MENU
Amuse Appetizer (Crab Meat)
Oyster Gratin Florence
Lobster Consommù Minestrone Stile
Perfumes of Basil
Tenderloin Steak in Croute
Burning Love Cake for Valentine
Truffle Chocolate
Bread
Coffee
February 14, 2009 ● 6:00pm. Claret
Live Entertainment starts at 6:30pm
Featuring Mario & Joan
For reservations & inquiry, please call 234-6414 ext. 1547 or 233-6414
$10 worth of Chambre Bar Gift certificate will be given to each couple
Special door prize
Cook's
tin roof
SAIPANCELL Communications is now docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Traditional healers seek funds to publish book

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of traditional healers on islands is seeking funding support from the Legislature for the completion of their publication that would share their knowledge about medicinal plants and healing practices.

Members of the Inetnon Amot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch have approached the Senate leadership to ask for help in the publication of their book, which is now in the final editing stage and would be ready for printing next month.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, in recognizing the important project of the indigenous group, wants funding assistance to come from the Saipan Trust Fund, which is administered by the Marianas Public Land Trust board.

"I urge the members of the MPLT board to consider this request in positive light and to make funding available from the Saipan Trust Fund or any appropriate funding source for appropriation by the Legislature as soon as possible…because the book is in its final editing stage and should be ready for printing," the lawmaker told Vianney Hocog, the chairman of the board of trustees.

Costing about $20,000, the lawmaker said the funding assistance will support further research and updating of the directory as well as cover some supplies and materials, maintenance of copier, and postage costs.

Pangelinan

"The request is an important effort to help preserve not only the knowledge about traditional medicine but also about the individual themselves who are not normally recognized. Their effort has a strong social purpose in that they are investing in the promotion of healing practices that are unique to our indigenous peoples. An added investment is the knowledge about plants and the importance in respecting our environment by protecting these plants," Pangelinan added.

The association consists of Chamorro and Carolinian indigenous individuals whose mission is to promote the cultural and traditional knowledge of the indigenous people, focusing on herbal medicine and traditional healing practices.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group received a one-year federal funding to conduct research toward the publication of the first CNMI directory of healers and traditional medicine information, including photographs of healers and herbal plants used in healing practices.

Unfortunately, many of the great healers have passed away before the project was made possible and their knowledge was not recorded.

Pangelinan said the group also conducted several community conferences that featured the island's own healers.

"For the first time, our healers have been given the opportunity to share their knowledge, if they desire to do so and to encourage the continuation of the practice in the future," she said, citing the successful efforts of the group in garnering partners to promote herbal gardens, including the herbal garden at the Man'amko Center.

Pangelinan lauded the group's effort in working with the Agriculture Division to identify medicinal plants and find ways to protect them from destruction due to natural causes and land development.

XEROX COPY
*B & W – 15¢ each
*COLOR – 75¢ each
RAINBOW COLOR • 233-5020
Email: rainbowcolor@pticom.com
*Condition apply. Inquiry within

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

Meeting your eye care needs with excellence.
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medicine, Surgery • Laser
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Dr. David Khorram, MD
"America's Top Ophthalmologists"
Walk-Ins Welcome
Yes! We accept Aetna, Staywell, Medicaid/Medicare, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Tricare, and more
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

IT&E
island Cruizer
cool deals on wheels
Weekend Prepaid Sale!

MOTOROLA V262 $50.00**** CDMA
SANYO KATANA II $75.00**** CDMA - CAMERA PHONE
NOKIA 3200 $50.00*** GSM (TRI-BAND,CAMERA)
MOTOROLA V220 $75.00*** GSM (TRI-BAND,CAMERA)

February 14, 2009 • 10:00am to 2:00pm
Payless Supermarket (Chalan Kanoa)
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza, Garapan)
FREE AIRTIME! when using PTI Long Distance Prepaid Card
* GSM Phones includes IT&E GSM SIM Card & Free $20.00 Load • ** CDMA Phones includes Free $20.00 Load
*** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will not be accepted • some conditions apply
IT&E Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

TRUONG'S Restaurant

Bring this coupon for a FREE Half Order of Fried Lumpia with purchase of any entree.
Free Wireless Internet Available
Take-Out Available 235-8050
A Real Taste of Asia
Open Daily: 11am to 10pm
Tel: 235-8050 Beach Rd. • Susupe
*This coupon is required.
Offer expires 02/28/09
Grand Hotel
Truong's Restaurant
World Resort
Beach Road, Susupe
Ebisuya

ADMINISTRATION

From Page 1

from 18 percent to 11 percent.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Tuesday the $156.76 million budget bill submitted by the Legislature for Fiscal Year 2009, which includes $148 million in local revenue collections, due to lack of austerity measures.

The Senate overrode the budget veto, while the House is expected to decide on it in today's session.

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos yesterday said the administration-sponsored bill, which is expected to be out soon, essentially provides three major cost-cutting measures.

The first part, he said, is the reinstatement of unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays every two weeks between now and the end of FY 2009 on Sept. 30. The goal is to have 72 hours instead of 80 hours of regular work hours per pay period.

Inos said the 12 austerity Fridays and five unpaid holidays will save the government $250,000 a day or over $4 million between now and Sept. 30.

According to Fitial and Inos, the bill will exempt federally funded positions, as well as employees of the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System. The NMC president and PSS commissioner will have to identify those who will be exempted and report it to the Legislature.

There are some 4,000 government employees, including those at PSS and NMC.

The Executive Branch has 1,800 to 1,900 employees who will be affected except those funded by the federal government, Fitial said.

The second portion of the bill is to reduce employer contribution to the Retirement Fund from the current statutory rate of 18 percent to 11 percent, said Inos.

"The final part is to memorialize by statute the existence of some $3.5 million in non-general fund resources that was identified in the vetoed bill but was not authorized by way of suspension. This bill will allow for the transfer of $3.5 million into non-general fund resource essentially identical to the procedure that was allowed under Public Law 15-71," he added.

POKER

From Page 1

untouched as business units or their expenditure authorities have yet to process contracts to use the funds.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that since the 14th Legislature, the Saipan Legislative Delegation had obligated a total of $25.5 million from poker license fees, of which only $16.7 million was actually used.

The balance of $8.839 million is awaiting contracts to be processed, as stipulated in local laws.

Based on the fund status of all active local poker fee appropriations, there is $4.1 million still not being used for approved projects in fiscal years 2007 and 2008. This, after the Saipan Delegation appropriated a total of $20.8 million in the last two fiscal years, of which only $16.7 million was actually expended and obligated.

For Fiscal Year 2009, the local delegation has approved $4.752 million projects to be funded by local poker fees. *Saipan Tribune* learned that only $20,500 was actually expended and obligated, resulting in a balance of $4.731 million that remains to be transferred once contracts are processed by expenditure authorities.

Unfinished project in FY '07, '08

More that 40 projects approved by the Saipan Delegation in the last two fiscal years appear to be still in the works as significant amounts have yet to be used up to this time.

From the available $4.1 million in the last two fiscal years, the following are some of the stalled projects, with their respective expenditure authorities:

■ Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has a recorded balance of $947,815 as of Sept. 30, 2008;

■ Zoning Board, $42,096;

■ Saipan Mayor's Office dog pound renovation, $75,000;

■ Saipan Mayor's Office heavy equipment rental, $566;

■ DPL's land acquisition, $3,395; and

■ CUC's water project in Dandan, $84,453.

Another accumulated $1.7 million is recorded for DPW for the agency's various road projects for Precincts 1, 3, and 4.

Records also show that $200,344 is still available for the Finance Secretary's land compensation payment in Kannat Tabla.

Projects with FY'09 appropriation

Only a portion of one approved appropriation this fiscal year was already expended and obligated and this is for the SHEFA operations, which has already used $20,500 of its operational funds of $79,500.

The rest are waiting for the transfer and processing of necessary contracts and requirements at the Finance Department:

■ SHEFA scholarship, $3 million;

■ Zoning Board, $75,000;

■ Saipan Little League, $50,000;

■ Liberation Day 2009, $45,000;

■ Agricultural Fair, $20,000;

■ Flame Tree Festival, $15,000;

■ Fishing Derby, $25,000;

■ Navy Hill baseball field, $30,000;

■ Gloria Drive road improvement, $111,000;

■ DPW's various projects, $200,000;

■ Capital Hill children's park, $100,000;

■ Precincts 1, 3 road improvements, $400,000;

■ Rota Gaming Commission, $450,000;

■ Northern Marianas Trade Institute, $100,000;

■ Dandan Elementary School maintenance, $21,000; and

■ Pakpak beach park improvement, $10,000.

Don't delay

A member of the Saipan Local Delegation, Rep. Justo Quitugua, appealed yesterday to business units and expenditure authorities of the approved local projects to act now.

"The expenditure authorities should really work on these projects because the longer we delay, the higher the cost for the projects," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The lawmaker said these agencies should recognize that approval of the funding was based on the "cost" when the requests were made.

"We're very concerned about this untouched funds…because the same amount may not be enough when they decide to do the project at a later time," the lawmaker said.

Quitugua believes that once these projects are given out to contractors, "these will help in the recovery efforts of our dwindling economy."

KILILI

From Page 1

ing, said even though he has initiated the letter to Napolitano, he thinks Fitial is the appropriate official to make the request.

Nevertheless, Sablan's six-page letter lays out the reasons for delaying the June 1 implementation of the federal immigration law in the CNMI: lack of sufficient funding; delays in the issuance of regulations; and the potential for disruption of families.

Fitial, in a separate press conference, reiterated that the immediate implementation of the law "will devastate our economy even further."

"The only body that can delay the implementation of this new federal law is the U.S. Congress. She [DHS Secretary Napolitano] should be the one to request for the delay. That's the first step. We have to convince her to initiate the request for the delay to Congress," said Fitial.

Sablan said Napolitano can push back by 180 days the start date of the transition period using the authority given her in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which mandated the transition from local to federal control of immigration.

He said effective border control to protect national security should be balanced with the need to protect the CNMI from adverse economic effects and expand the islands' potential for future economic growth.

Life threatening

Napolitano's predecessor as Homeland Security secretary is one of the defendants in the lawsuit filed by Fitial to stop the implementation of the federal immigration law.

When asked how he thinks this would affect Napolitano's response, Fitial said: "Perhaps this will be an opportunity for her to get to know more about the reason why I filed the lawsuit…"

"I will tell her that this new federal law is not only bad but is life threatening. I told her that before…I will continue to impress upon her the very devastating effect of this new federal immigration law," the governor said.

The CNMI House of Representatives earlier passed a resolution requesting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to delay the application of U.S. immigration law in the CNMI. The resolution supports Sablan's push to delay it by 180 days, the maximum amount allowed under Public Law 110-229.

$19.4M needed versus $5M on hand

Sablan said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in a report to Congress, estimated that $19.4 million will be needed for the federal agency to take on the six entry points in the CNMI.

However, only $5 million has been cobbled together from other department resources to have the entry points operational by June 1, 2009.

Sablan said DHS Assistant Secretary Richard Barth described this kind of buildup as "quick and dirty."

"The lack of funds appropriated to implement the requirements of the CRNA not only reduces the department's capacity to secure the borders, but also may limit your ability to respond to the economic dictates of the CRNA," Sablan told Napolitano.

Sablan also asked for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program.

"I understand there is no assurance that the necessary technologies will be funded in FY 2010, that there will be time for them to be installed before the end of the 180-day period of delay, or that other impediments to inclusion of Russian and China in the visa waiver program can be overcome," he said.

Sablan said nine months after the CNRA became law, DHS has only issued regulations covering the visa waiver program.

"This lack of guidance makes planning by businesses and individuals extremely difficult," he said in a statement.

Humanitarian concerns

In his letter, Sablan pointed out the potentially negative effects of the federalization law on immediate relatives of U.S. citizens in the CNMI.

He said the 180-day delay would give time to find a workable solution to making sure these relatives would not be deported when the immediate relative status they have from the CNMI expires.

Currently, the CNMI has a family-based immigration status for immediate relatives—children, spouses, and parents of U.S. citizens. IRs may work in the CNMI, and may enter and re-enter the islands. An IR status is renewable every year, and many IRs have been living in the CNMI with their families for at least 20 years.

With the transition to federal immigration, many IRs under CNMI law will lose their immigration status because the U.S. has no equivalent visa.

"So there is the very real prospect that as the IR permits issued by the Commonwealth expire, families composed in part of U.S. citizens, but without the financial means to have successfully applied for 'green cards' for IR family members, will see those family members face deportation," Sablan told Napolitano.

CNMI

From Page 1

of Fitial and Senate President Pete P. Reyes.

Fitial, in a news briefing yesterday, called on Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan to also co-sign the letter with Faleomavaega "on behalf of the people and struggling businesses of the CNMI."

"Given the vulnerable condition of our economy, I cannot emphasize to you enough how important federal minimum wage relief is for the CNMI economy at this time, when shipping and other business costs have increased, while visitor arrivals and revenues have substantially decreased," he told Sablan in a letter.

The current minimum wage in the CNMI is $4.05 an hour, and will increase by another 50 cents to $4.55 an hour this year, when the islands have no more garment industry to speak of and tourism arrivals are very low. Public Law 110-28 allows the yearly increase in minimum wage until it reaches the federal minimum wage level of $7.25 an hour.

Two-year suspension

Fitial said he will ask for at least a two-year suspension of the federal wage law, and the imposition of a realistic wage rate that the CNMI economy can sustain at this time based on objective information.

"Considering our current financial challenges and the weakness of our economy, we ask you to support a reasonable modification in the application of federal minimum wage increases for the CNMI," the draft letter said. "We join American Samoa in asking for this consideration in view of our significant economic difficulties."

In the two-page draft letter to Miller, the local government said the automatic federal minimum wage increase could not have been imposed at a more vulnerable time for the CNMI economy, which is currently struggling through the worst economic depression in decades.

They cited major losses in tourist arrivals and the demise of the once almighty garment industry. By the end of February, the CNMI will not have a single garment manufacturing firm, from about three dozens in the '90s.

The CNMI's tourism arrivals went from some 700,000 tourists in 1997 to fewer than 400,000 at the end of 2008. The islands lost significant flight capacity, including the withdrawal of regular Japan Airlines service and the loss of direct flights from Continental Airlines.

In March, Northwest Airlines will use smaller aircraft from Narita. In May, it will also cancel its nighttime flights from both Osaka and Narita. The Marianas Visitors Authority said the CNMI will lose 268 percent of its total air seats by Northwest, and $51.341 million and $168.118 million in direct and indirect economic opportunity, respectively, by the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

Other crises

The CNMI's economic difficulties are not confined to the loss of an entire industry and major losses in the tourism industry.

"We are also coping with a protracted public utility crisis, the global recession, a government pension fund crisis, and the application of sweeping new federal immigration and labor policies that may exclude two major tourism markets for the CNMI: Russia and China," the CNMI draft letter says.

Fitial is expected to take up this issue with federal officials when he leaves on Feb. 17 for Washington, D.C. to attend various official functions.

These include the National Governors Association meeting on Feb. 21 to 23; the Pacific Basin Development Council meeting on Feb. 24; the Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting on Feb. 24; a meeting with new U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Feb. 24; and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting on Feb. 25.

SVES project gives way to GTC renovation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A project for San Vicente Elementary School has been temporarily set aside by the Public School System to prioritize the immediate renovation of dilapidated buildings at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

PSS is concerned that if no repairs are made at GTC, the facilities may be closed because of health and safety concerns.

By a voice vote, Board of Education members affirmed yesterday their decision to put at the top of their to-do list the GTC renovation after funding for the project was taken out of the community development block grant list in favor of a new soccer field in Koblerville.

Last year, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reprogrammed $1.2 million in CIP money for immediate repairs in 20 public school facilities. From the figure, $66,000 was appropriated to GTC for termite control and electrical upgrades. Since the cancellation of the project from CDBG, PSS was asked to re-appropriate $1.2 million to accommodate the GTC renovation.

Saipan Tribune learned that SVES was supposed to get $120,000 for the construction of two Kindergarten classrooms. Since one of the classrooms was already built via community donations, it was recommended to re-allocate the fund for another Kindergarten classroom at GTC.

It was learned that SVES is also looking to get some assistance from the Legislature on the funding needs of the other Kindergarten room.

The GTC fund was eventually approved in yesterday's board meeting—$120,000 from the SVES project; $208,000 from the general bond interest; plus the $66,000 originally earmarked for GTC.

It was decided that all amounts will be used for the immediate renovation of buildings G and F, which house nine classrooms at present.

GTC acting principal Charlotte Camacho was elated at the news. She disclosed that the school will seek more funds—perhaps federal grants—for the school's collateral equipment, estimated at $200,000.

"Our goal is to open school with a safe environment for our kids next school year. We're very grateful to the assistance and support by the board, the system and our sister-school San Vicente," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said construction will begin in June.

Repairs for Building B, she said, was suspended due to the serious condition of the two other buildings, which were built some 30 years ago.

Fitial promises to reimburse GTC by June

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has promised to reimburse the Public School System within four months of all funds that will be used to renovate the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

This was stated in a joint letter sent yesterday by Fitial and GTC principal Charlotte Camacho to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

The reimbursement will come from the under-runs of other CIP funded projects, which have been or will be closed out within the next few months.

Fitial had asked PSS and the Education Board to reallocate the $1.2 million he had reprogrammed for schools last year to the GTC project, in light of the cancellation of the grant originally intended for the project.

"Gov. Fitial guaranteed that he would, within four months time [by June 2009], restore the full amount of reprogrammed funds for GTC from the $1.2 million back to PSS," Camacho, in a letter concurred by Fitial, told the commissioner.

Camacho asked PSS for $536,500 for critical repairs and $175,000 for collateral equipment for the school. The Education Board approved yesterday only $300,000-plus for the rehabilitation of two buildings.

Camacho told Sablan that time is of the essence with regards to the GTC project.

"At this point, we cannot count on the [grant] funding in order to begin and complete work in time for the new school year," she said.

The principal said that GTC, with the assistance of the PSS CIP, have taken measures and made preparations to begin work on the critical renovations.

"Our goal is to complete all work during the 2009 summer intercession, so as to minimize construction hazards and disruptions to the students during the school year," she said.

She added that in order to meet this goal and begin the 2009-2010 school year on time, the procurement process and acquisition of necessary certifications must begin.

"Funding must be obligated and available for commitment on this project, within the next month," the principal added. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

USSP BAR
Show Starts @ 9pm
LOCAL RHYTHM VALENTINES
Live On Stage
GUEST SINGERS FROM BAYSIDE, PALAU
Back to Back with Rock Islanders
February 13 & 14, 2009
Door Cover Charge $5.00
(Includes 1 Free Drink)
Beers at $2.50 all night long.

Check us out... We're
OPEN
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, CABRERA CENTER
we'll SET you up with the island's Genuine brands...
233-3738
CHOKECHAIN • ATHLETICS • MARIANA-ISLANDS • EST.2006
MONDAY to SATURDAY 11AM – 7PM
CHOKE CHAIN. FIGO. KULAN ZAMU.

Happy Valentines
"Perfect Couples" Prepaid Deal
Only $99
for two (2) slim & lite i425's with $12.50 airtime load in each phone.
i425
Lightest PTT Phone
Voice Dialing
USB Connector
Color Display
"Open your gift, dear."
-husband
"C'mon, half of that is mine!"
-husband
"NO. I want to wait for Valentine's Day!"
-wife
iCONNECT
Saipan - Guam Office 888.8888 / www.iconnectsaipan.com
Offer good only from January 16, 2009 to February 28, 2009. Conditions apply.

HPO says underwater discoveries continue

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office vows to continue efforts to uncover more underwater discoveries in the Marianas to help preserve and enrich the indigenous culture and history.

Last year, HPO conducted a remote sensing survey using a marine magnetometer to record objects in the Saipan lagoon.

According to Secretary Cecilia T. Celes of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, over 1,500 targets were detected and mapped using the surveyors' side-scan sonar, which divers used to identify a sample of the targets.

She said some objects had been identified by previous investigations.

Celes said that a Japanese vessel, a World War II-era Japanese commercial ship, was also identified by the survey.

She disclosed that 1,400 targets remain unidentified by the HPO.

"Most of them are wire cable, chain, and parts of equipment, but some are likely to be more interesting," said Celes.

The official said that based on U.S. military records, other Japanese ships were destroyed on Saipan and in the waters of the CNMI but the exact locations of these wrecks are not known.

"NOAA navigation charts show many marked wrecks in and around the lagoon, but some have been removed over the years and others consist of only a scatter of debris. HPO is working to identify additional objects documented by the survey in or immediately outside the lagoon," Celes told Saipan Tribune.

The DCCA chief said that HPO has identified two priority undertakings this year: One is a survey of a portion of Carolinas Heights on Tinian and the other is a proposal to document the Trust Territory government complex on Capitol Hill as a historic district.

She said that HPO staffer John Castro is now in Australia attending an underwater archeology workshop by Flinders University of Adelaide.

Fitial vetoes measure allowing DPL to pay land compensation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Wednesday disapproved a bill authorizing the Department of Public Lands to pay land compensation judgments, saying it is unconstitutional.

Fitial said there is nowhere in Article XI of the CNMI Constitution that mentions land compensation payments as one of the allowable expenses from moneys received from public lands.

DPL's duties are limited to funding itself and the Marianas Public Land Trust.

"This section [of the CNMI Constitution] clearly lists what expenses are allowable from moneys received from the public lands. It does not list land compensation payments as one of the allowable expenses. As such, this legislation must be disapproved," Fitial said in his two-page letter to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes.

House Bill 16-206, offered by Reps. Heinz S. Hofschneider and Stanley T. Torres, authorizes DPL to pay for land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts "in cases where land exchange is not a viable or desirable option."

It said DPL has been sued over land compensation payments.

For example, on Jan. 8, the CNMI Superior Court ordered DPL to pay $1.8 million to the heirs of Rita Rogolifoi as compensation for the family's As Mahetog lands that were used by the government for public projects in 1976 and 1992.

"Land compensation judgments usually include interest which is compounded until the judgment is paid in full, thereby making it imperative that the judgments are paid as soon as possible," said the bill, adding that DPL has the ability to satisfy land compensation judgments.

Earlier, DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario Jr. wrote a letter to then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, asking him to veto the bill because it is unconstitutional.

The Constitution states that the Marianas Public Land Corp., now DPL, "shall receive all moneys from the public lands except those from lands in which freehold interest has been transferred to another agency of government… and shall transfer these moneys after the end of the fiscal year to the Marianas Public Land Trust except that the corporation shall retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration and management, land surveying, homestead development, and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions."

TALK FOR LESS!
INTRODUCING OUR NEW PREPAID RATES
Available at all DOCOMO PACIFIC locations
and convenient stores throughout The CNMI.
CDMA WIRELESSCARD GO! PREPAID CNMI
TEN $10 DOLLARS
TWENTY $20 DOLLARS
FIFTY $50 DOLLARS
FIVE $5 DOLLARS
CDMA PREPAID
GSM / WCDMA WIRELESSCARD GO! PREPAID
TEN $10 DOLLARS
FIVE $5 DOLLARS
TWENTY $20 DOLLARS
GSM/WCDMA PREPAID
docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
20¢ OUTGOING
PER MINUTE ANYTIME!
All calls from any carrier!
10¢ INCOMING
FREE outgoing Long Distance to Canada, Guam, Hawaii, China, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, Alaska & Korea (only airtime charges apply).
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-057

"OFFICE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

SPONSOR A STUDENT FROM THE NMTI

Local students attending the Northern Marianas Trades Institute are in need of funding to complete their trades skills. They are seeking a sponsor who will help them complete their studies.

The program works like this. You or your company adopts a student or several from our roster. We will introduce him to you. As his sponsor, he will report to you on his progress periodically.

If you know of someone that you wish to sponsor that is currently not in the school that will be acceptable also.

These students are learning skills for a lifetime. Come in and let's discuss how you can help. Also see our facilities and watch students in action. A miraculous change is taking place in them.

Call Vic, Rose or Tony at 235-6684 for more details.

Please help!
The future of Saipan is in their hands and in yours!
Sponsor a student to learn a skill for a lifetime!!!

'Significant increase in fake bills poses a concern'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting U.S. Secret Service special agent has noted a significant increase in the amount of counterfeit U.S. currency being circulated on Saipan in the last three months.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, special agent Virgil D. "Gus" Reichle corroborated Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong's statement that these fake dollar bills are now being made locally.

"We believe these fake bills are made here on Saipan. But as far as hard proof, we don't have it right now," Reichle said.

Reichle and fellow special agent Mac Bostic recently conducted a free workshop for businesses and law enforcement representatives at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce due to a recent rash of counterfeit complaints on the island.

He said that, based on his 10-year experience as a special agent, these types of digitally produced counterfeit are more likely than not being made right here on the island.

Reichle also confirmed that the U.S. Secret Service is jointly conducting with the Department of Public Safety an investigation on the bogus bills.

The special agent said they are now pursuing leads and that it is just a matter of putting the pieces together. He refused to divulge specific details, saying the investigation is ongoing.

Reichle said the problem certainly poses a concern but that he doesn't want to cause panic in the community.

He cited that in 2008, they did not have nearly the same number of counterfeit cases as in the last 60 to 90 days on the island.

The U.S. Secret Service is planning to conduct more trainings in the CNMI, especially with the newly recruited police officers.

He said counterfeiters have gotten brazen as they started with $10 bills, graduated to the $20s, and have now started doing $50s and $100s. Reichle advised businesses to scrutinize 20's, 50's and 100's bills.

"My message to the business community is, I don't want to be paranoid, but certainly scrutinize their money when they have financial transactions. If they actually come across a counterfeit, they should try to be a good witness," the special agent said.

In February 2008, Reichle conducted the same counterfeit detection training at the Saipan Grand Hotel. That time, he said the counterfeit problem was not a big problem yet in the CNMI.

Police Officer 2 Tarkong on Wednesday disclosed that people involved in illegal drugs are believed to be behind the circulation of these fake bills.

Renewal of firearms permit extended

Due to the remaining number of unregistered firearms, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela has extended the deadline for gun owners to renew any expired firearms permit and/or transfer of firearms for another 30 days, from Jan. 16, 2009 to Feb. 16, 2009.

DPS believes that this is sufficient notice for all gun owners to renew or transfer their firearms. DPS patrol units have delivered final notices to individuals informing them to transfer/renew their gun permits. Any person who is in possession of illegal firearms and/or ammunition after Feb. 16, 2009, will be dealt with according to the law.

DPS resident directors on Tinian and Rota have been informed of this matter and will also ensure that people are in compliance of the law and not possessing illegal firearms and/or ammunition.

Individuals who wish to relinquish ownership of their firearms must voluntarily and peacefully surrender his/her firearm and/or ammunition to DPS for proper disposal. Firearms with expired permits that are within the DPS Armory Section's custody will be disposed of after Feb. 16, 2009.

As of Feb. 10, 2009, CNMI Range Master Ambrosio Oguomoro has confirmed the number of remaining unregistered firearms. For the island of Saipan, of the 800 firearms that were previously declared as unregistered, 250 firearm permits remain unregistered. For the island of Rota, 60 gun permits remain expired. On Tinian, the DPS resident director of Tinian confirmed that all firearm permit holders have successfully renewed their firearms.

The Department of Public Safety would like to inform gun owners that registering their firearms will benefit the community by not only promoting public safety and reducing the sale of stolen guns but also reducing the risk of potential loss of life within the community. ***(DPS)***

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-058

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Protect your eyes in high style

Let our certified opticians help you select the perfect frame to fit you and your lifestyle.

HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

235-2030 • Located on Beach Road next to Megabyte
We accept most insurance plans and all major credit cards

SERVICES OFFERED:
• Thorough examinations for eye disease • Treatment for infections and injuries
• Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care • Infant/children eye exams

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

FALL IN LOVE

Nokia 2760
$65.00*
GSM Postpaid
• Camera
• Bluetooth
• Video Recorder
• Mobile Browsing
• Picture Messaging
• Video Messaging
• MP4 Player

Text Me

LG 355
$75.00*
CDMA Postpaid
• 1.3 MP Camera
• Bluetooth
• Media Player
• Micro SD Card Slot
• Mobile Browsing
• Picture Messaging
• Video Messaging
$99.00*
CDMA Prepaid

Call Me Be Mine

Motorola krzr
$150.00*
CDMA Postpaid
New 12 Month Agreement Required
• Text Messaging
• Multi Media Messaging Services
• Camera
• Speakerphone
• Bluetooth
• Media Player
• Micro SD Card Slot
• Voice Dialing

Motorola krzr Gold
$99.00*
GSM Postpaid
New 12 Month Agreement Required
• Text Messaging
• Multi Media Messaging Services
• Camera
• Speakerphone
• Bluetooth
• Media Player
• Micro SD Card Slot
• Voice Dialing

Exclusive Packaging includes
Phone pouch
Micro SD memory card
CLA
Hands free headset

*Some conditions apply. New 12-Month agreement required. Offer valid until Feb. 14, 2009 or while supplies last.

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

483-CARE | **www.docomopacific.com** | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Members of the Muna clan pose with Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Muna, who were recognized as the longest married couple in the CNMI at the World Marriage Day celebration on Feb. 7, 2009, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan celebrates World Marriage Day

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community recently celebrated World Marriage Day on Feb. 7, 2009, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

As a historic ecumenical celebration, the CNMI Marriage Encounter Community, together with Fr. Ike Ayuyu, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Pastor Greg Dickerman and Pastor Roger Abe and the public, joined as one to celebrate the sanctity of marriage and family.

The ceremony began with a song by Jenni Aguon, T*he Greatest Gift of All,* followed by each of the priests and pastors reading Scripture verses. Interspersed among the verses were testimonies from three couples: Rex and Clarie Kosack, Charles and Cathy Cepeda, and Gonzalo and Linda Pangelinan who shared their stories about love and marriage. This was followed by Pastor Dickerman giving the homily, the candle lighting and the renewing of vows.

Lastly, the large Muna clan witnessed Fr. Jimenez bestow a special honor and blessing for Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Muna, recognized as the longest married couple in the CNMI. The Muna's have been married for 66 years and are blessed with many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The memorable event was a prelude to Valentine's Day and the next Marriage Encounter Weekend, slated for March 27-29, 2009 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. For registration, contact John & Vicky Mafnas at 285-8454 or e-mail vbmafnas@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Treat your loved ones with 'Sweets' from Tun Goru Snack Bar
this Valentine's Day
Mini Valentine Cake
'Chocolate or Velvet'
or Cookies
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST...
Tun Goru
SNACK BAR
For more information, give us a call today at 322-4678 (GORU)

710 rubber ducks sold for Feb. 21 PIC race

With just over a week left, a total of 710 rubber ducks have so far been sold as of yesterday for the first ever duck race, which will be held Feb. 21 at the Pacific Islands Club.

This means a total of $3,550 has been raised for the event, the proceeds of which would go to the Marianas March Against Cancer. The money will be used to help cancer patients and for research purposes.

PIC sports manager Lindsey Sosovec said the amount could go higher because each of the 45 PIC employees has been given 20 rubber ducks to sell. Sosovec said some of them would submit their collections by Friday this week.

She said they expect about a thousand pieces may have already been sold, which would mean they are already halfway to the target of 2,009 ducks.

She said they are confident of achieving that goal because many buyers could come in a few days before the race.

The ducks, which costs $5 each, will be released at the PIC lazy river from the Point Break slide. They will go down the slide and complete one revolution of the lazy river. The owner of the duck that crosses the finish line first will receive the grand prize of $1,000.

Those who want to purchase a rubber duck may visit the PIC sports department for payment and they will be provided a specific duck's tag number. Each buyer will get a corresponding number for his duck and automatically qualify for the race. Winners don't need to be present at the race in order to qualify for the grand prize. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 13, 2001

Bank assets soar 27 percent in 4Q

The need for additional financing by local businesses paved the road for a significant increase in banking activities in the Northern Marianas, with bank assets growing 27 percent and liabilities modestly dropping by 1.3 percent by end-December 2000. A report from the Banking and Insurance Division of the commerce department disclosed outstanding loans soared 27 percent to $325 million in the last quarter of the calendar year 2000 from the previous period's $255.7 million. This, as liabilities dropped 1.3 percent to $596 million from the last quarter's $604 million as bank clients see lesser need to save on savings and commercial deposits due to increased activities in the tourism industry.

Teno junks changes to local preference law

Noting the impacts it may have on projects that are already out for solicitation, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio rejected legislative proposals to change portions of an existing law, which gives local businesses preference on bidding of projects below $5 million. While continued preference is given to local businesses which hold Commonwealth business license for three consecutive years, Senate Bill 12-83 eliminates the dollar value of government projects to which they can enjoy inclination. This was the same issue raised by Mr. Tenorio in his letter to the Legislature, explaining his reasons behind the rejection of the proposed amendments to Public Law 11-87.

February 13, 2002

Chamber: NMI jobs evaporating

An economic study in 1999 estimated that over 1,600 jobs would withdraw from the CNMI every year from 2000 until 2005. This eventuality has accelerated since it was presented, with local statistics showing a 27-percent drop in worker applications since last year. Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Richard Pierce pointed this out, underscoring the fact that "no one can produce jobs out of thin air," in response to appeals from lawmakers for the private sector to take in more local workers. Pierce said that, more than workers, it's the jobs that are being lost, citing the Economic Study for the CNMI, which the Northern Marianas College-Business Development Center conducted in October 1999.

CPA hiring replacements for Guam National Guards

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has started hiring local residents who will be joining the Ports Police in preparation for the eventual termination of the contract with the Guam National Guard on March 28, 2002. The CPA yesterday started accepting applications and conducted lengthy interviews of local applicants wishing to join the ports authority's security force. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said that at least six local recruits will replace some members of the Guam National Guard who were temporarily stationed on Saipan after the September 11 eventualities in the United States.

February 13, 2003

BoS stakeholders unanimous in support of rehab plan

With several bank depositors-mostly Chinese-joining the courtroom gallery of Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan yesterday, all parties in the Bank of Saipan receivership case expressed support for the institution's proposed rehabilitation, spurring high hopes of reopening the bank soon. After the hearing, bank receiver Antonio Muna said he expects the judge's approval of the rehabilitation plan within the next few days. Muna wants the bank to reopen within 30 days from the time the court approves the plan. "We're really optimistic," said the visibly pleased Muna, accompanied by lawyer S. Joshua Berger. "It [hearing] was very positive. Everybody [gave] full support."

Putting a human face to labor migration

BANGKOK, Thailand—Print and broadcast journalists from around Asia and the Pacific began informal talks yesterday on the trails of migration in their respective countries, as a prelude to the Inter Press Service and Ford Foundation's migration seminar that is set to begin here today. Media practitioners from Saipan, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and other neighboring countries converged here for the "On the Asian Migration Trail" project, which will open formal discussions at the Century Park Hotel in Pratunam-Victory Monument.

JOETEN 30th ANNIVERSARY

Valentine's Weekend Specials

Bargain In Every Aisle!

FEBRUARY 13 thru 18, 2009

Valentine Bear 14"
$5.99

Valentine's Rose with Base
$3.99

Mens Skulls Tee Shirt
$7.99

Ladies Long Sleeve Crinkle Blouse Assorted
$14.99

Toddler Boys Stripe Tees
$4.99

Flair Fragrances Gift Set
$27.99

Terry Tot with Body Wash
$8.99

Assorted Body Spray 4.3oz.
$1.00

Revlon Nail Kit
$7.99

Revlon Eye Kit
$10.99

Turbo Hair Dryer
$17.49

Sunbeam Hair Curler/Iron
$7.99

Vidal Sassoon 9pc. Haircutting Kit
$18.90

VS Gold Series Hair Straightener
$27.99

Mini Massager
$6.99

Comfort Gel Hand Massager
$14.99

DR. Scholl Assorted Massager
$27.99

Come Shop and Save!

Snacks

Aloha Maid Products 24/11.5oz.
$10.99/CS.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.98/CS.

Coke Products 24/12oz.
$13.99/CS.

Kristov Vodka Cruisers 274ml.
$1.09/ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99

CSR Sugar White Poly 2kg. 4.4lbs.
$1.79

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$34.95

Springfield Oil Veg. 48oz.
$5.65

Bounty Paper Towel 1 Roll
$1.25

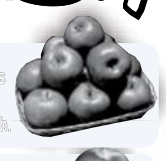
Soft N Gentle Bath Tissue 4 Roll
$1.79

Kingsford Sure Fire Charcoal 18lbs.
$11.99

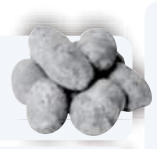
Gain Powder Regular 120 Load
$18.99

U.S. Produce

Look for the savings throughout our store!



Fuji Apples 79¢ lb.



PotatoeS 59¢ lb

Onion Yellow 49¢ lb.

Red Seedless Grapes $1.99 /lb.

U.S. Orange 79¢ lb.

Gala Apples 79¢ lb.

Green Cabbage 49¢ lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

Frozen Products

LOW LOW PRICES

Chicken Leg Quarters 22lb.
$18.99/cs.

New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod
$1.99/lb.

Pork Spareribs 2 Down Danish 10lbs.
$19.99/cs.

Pork Spareribs 20lbs. (Limit 1)
$17.99/cs.

Whole Chicken Fryers
$37.99/cs.

Tilapia/Milkfish
$1.49/lb.

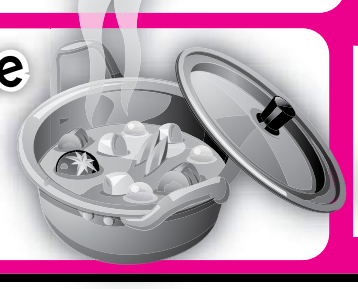
Come for more selections!

Aiko's SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!



Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center and Big Bargain Chalan Piao

We accept major credit cards - We welcome Foodstamps - We reserve the right to limit quantities

We are not responsible for any typographical or printing error

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 38

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Mideast on rewind

It's beginning to look a lot like 1998 in the Middle East. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli prime minister from 1996 to 1999, has a shot at taking over again after a very close election Tuesday. In Iran, Mohammad Khatami, the country's president from 1997 to 2005, on Sunday announced his candidacy in the June presidential race. If both win, they can growl at each other via the airwaves just like they did a decade ago.

It's common in parliamentary democracies (or theocratic hybrids like Iran's) for politicians to shift in and out of power, but the political resurrection of disgraced leaders seems particularly common in the turbulent Middle East, where few heads of state set such a low bar that their successors can't perform even worse—leading to reassessment and career revival. Hence, two-time Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto probably would be holding the same post today, despite being chased out of office twice amid allegations of corruption, if she hadn't been assassinated in 2007; her husband subsequently was elected in her stead. Meanwhile, Iraq's Iyad Allawi, the country's first prime minister following the ouster of Saddam Hussein, is once again a political force after his party surged in last week's provincial elections, and he could soon be a serious challenger for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Netanyahu's political rebirth is particularly surprising. Considered untrustworthy even by fellow members of the conservative Likud Party and widely despised by the left, he conceded defeat within half an hour of the polls' closure in 1999, gave up his Knesset seat and resigned as head of Likud, the first time an Israeli prime minister had been so thoroughly removed from power after an election. But in a country disillusioned with the Palestinian peace process and aching for improved security, he looks attractive again.

Khatami's fall wasn't as dramatic as Netanyahu's, but he upset many of his followers by failing to live up to his promises of economic and political reform, setting the stage for the disastrous reign of populist rabble-rouser Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. With inflation hitting 30 percent last year, Iran's middle class now longs for the more prosperous days under Khatami. We hope the clerics who vet presidential candidates give him a chance to run, because his is one comeback we'd like to see. Anti-Israel as he may be, he's still more moderate than Ahmadinejad, and his ascent could lead to meaningful dialogue between Tehran and the Obama administration.

Of course, it would be nice if the Middle East could produce some new faces and new ideas, but it's not alone on that front: Jerry Brown is a top contender for governor of California in 2010.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

LAND OWNERSHIP CONTROL STIFLES GROWTH, DEV'T

Key factors influencing growth of NMI economy

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Second of a six-part series

In a nutshell, the three basic ingredients needed for economic growth and development are land, capital (money), and labor. There are also other important factors needed, such as a developed infrastructure, technology, financial services, telecommunications, and a skilled and educated workforce. All of these factors contribute to the growth and development of any economy. Absent any of these key ingredients, the economy of a place will have difficulty developing and growing.

The economy of a place involves the buying and selling of products produced and services provided or rendered. In the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the product we are selling and the services we are providing are the islands themselves as a visitor destination, with all of the attendant services that ordinarily come with the hospitality industry. They require quality hotels, diverse recreation and relaxation activities, excellent golf courses, clean and white-sand beaches, deep sea fishing, good restaurants, great sightseeing, cultural parks, and a warm and friendly people, among other things.

For purposes of our visitor industry, the CNMI has almost all of the foregoing. So the question that arises is why is the CNMI visitor industry not doing well? Fewer visitors have been coming to the CNMI over the past several years. As we know, one key reason why fewer and fewer visitors are coming here has been the substantial reduction in the number of airline flights and seats available to the CNMI from our key visitor source: Japan. Unless we revive the number of flights from Japan and elsewhere, the CNMI visitor industry will continue operating without making a profit. The first consequence of our economic downturn, as we have already begun seeing over the past two years, is that more and more businesses have closed up shop. They have left for other places where they could make a profit. Potential investors, as we have seen, are no longer willing to invest in the CNMI.

Which businesses and investors are directly affected by the decline in the CNMI visitor industry? Literally all businesses in the CNMI are adversely affected. Many of these businesses are owned by the major investors who have spurred the economic growth of the CNMI over the past 30 years. They are the *foreign investors* from Japan and Korea who built our major hotels and golf courses and bring in visitors from their countries. They are the *local investors* from the CNMI and the U.S. All these investors have built our golf courses, duty free gift shops, and operate restaurants, supermarkets, water sports, sightseeing activities, boating trips to Managaha and the other islands nearby, and so forth.

During the economic heyday of the CNMI from about 1985 to 1998, the CNMI economy was booming. Much of our economic boom could be attributed to the influx of investment monies from foreign investors, primarily investors from Japan and Korea. The investors, at that time, had strong faith and confidence in the economic future of the Commonwealth. They, therefore, invested huge sums of money in land acquisition, in hotel construction, golf course development, and other business ventures in the CNMI. As investors, they clearly prefer obtaining fee simple ownership of the property where their investment is; but they were, *at that time*, willing to invest even with only a 40 year leasehold interest that they could acquire under CNMI law.

That was about 20 to 30 years ago, when foreign investors could acquire a maximum leasehold interest of 40 years on public land and a 55-year leasehold on privately-owned land. Over the years, however, the remainder interest on their leasehold has become shorter and shorter, and the investment equation has dramatically changed since. With a leasehold interest of sometimes only 10 to 15 years remaining, many of these long time investors are now wondering whether they should continue making any further improvement on their existing investment; or whether they should begin winding down their operation, especially with the extremely poor economic condition of the CNMI. The question that has been confronting these investors is: should they stay, or should they pack up and leave the CNMI? As we know, some of our major investors have already done just that: packed up and left the CNMI.

The answer to the dilemma facing existing investors rests in large part on the local government, on our laws, and on investor concern as to whether the local economy would turn around. The chances of the local economy improving depend largely on our resolution of the issues directly affecting the CNMI economy. In the case of the CNMI visitor industry, a major culprit has been the absence of reliable and adequate air service between Saipan and Japan. If another air carrier, in addition to Northwest Airlines, were to begin regular air service between the CNMI and *other cities in Japan*, there is general agreement that the visitor industry would begin to rebound. Of course, we have to spruce up and improve our visitor industry product with quality hotel facilities and services. We also have to begin implementing innovative and new cultural and relaxation activities for visitors to enjoy and spend their time on, particularly at night. But there is little doubt that the visitor industry for the CNMI would rebound if air service is enhanced.

A second critical factor that must be addressed by CNMI government and business leaders is the need to attract new investors so that they would come and invest in the CNMI. New investors would seriously consider investing in the CNMI if the CNMI government would only make good on its promise to cultivate an "investor-friendly climate." For example, if potential investors could be assured in no uncertain terms by the CNMI government (under CNMI law) that they could acquire fee simple ownership of the property that they are going to build their investment on (or, at the very least, like Palau now, be able to acquire a 99-year leasehold on CNMI

See KEY on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Expats: The next generation

By ED STEPHENS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

I hear from lots of folks in the mainland who are thinking about riding a rainbow to the tropics. Usually, three-quarters of these people seem to be guys in their 40s. But lately I've noticed an interesting turn in the demographics; quite a number of men and women in their early 20s are contemplating making a tropical leap. What does this say? And, would I advise them to move to Saipan?

The younger set, of course, has always had an element of energetic travelers, frequently backpackers, sometimes altruistic activists, and what have you. But the people I'm hearing from aren't in these categories. Simply put, they perceive that their futures in the U.S. are bleak, and they'd like to carve out lives for themselves (as working professionals, not as mooches) in venues where life has a freer air to it. They're typically a couple of years into the work force after college, and have zero optimism about their futures in the U.S. mainland.

These folks are, of course, outliers. I don't claim that their pessimism about the U.S. economy is shared by the mainstream. The mainstream will follow the herd to matter what.

The tropical destinations most frequently mentioned to me are Thailand, which is sensible enough, since it's a long time favorite with expats, and, interestingly enough, Vietnam.

Vietnam? Vietnamese in the states are often very successful professionals and business owners, so my guess is that people who witness their success figure that Vietnam must have a lot of smart and capable people. I can't argue with that theory.

Here's a destination that none of the younger set seem interested in: The Philippines. It's like the place isn't even on the map. This is probably a combination of its inability to develop economically, and all the bad press the R.P. gets in the U.S. I think the expats who prefer the Philippines tend to be older guys who went there during their military days, or other guys who married Pinays, a category well-represented on Saipan.

As for Saipan, well, what of it? Would a reasonably ambitious young person well advised to bet their futures on Saipan? Looking at the strictly mercenary aspect of things, if they aspired to be career bureaucrats, they might be able to bore themselves in the local government network and live off the dwindling stash of Commonwealth coffers (then whine about their shaky pensions when the time comes.) However, none of the younger set who I corresponded with aspired to be patronage suck-butts.

Saipan used to be a great gateway to Asia because of all the Asian managers we had here; China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand were all well-represented. This was, without a doubt, the biggest advantage that the CNMI had for the American professional. After making friends in Saipan, one could get their help and then ease into things in Asia. Many of us have done just that.

But this gig depended on having a vigorous and healthy private sector. Saipan doesn't have that any longer. Mostly, it's become a U.S. supported comedy troupe of bureaucrats lecturing other bureaucrats. Furthermore, the numbers of Asian managers are plunging, and probably have been for many years now; consequently it has lost much of its value as a gateway to Asia for the young professional.

Of course, the lifestyle advantages still apply: Arrive in Saipan, and you can hop on a car and drive it (not something I'd care to try in a lot of other tropical venues), set yourself up with an easy to understand apartment lease, know you've got access to U.S. doctors and dentists, eat food that meets Western standards of cleanliness, and you can basically have the familiar trappings of U.S. life while being on Asia's doorstep.

Saipan, like anywhere else, has its unique blend of advantages and drawbacks. What kind of people do we attract?

And why would college educated kids want to bail out of the United States? Where will they go, and why? These are interesting questions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The real deal on impeachment

There have been reports in the Saipan newspapers about a call to impeach the lieutenant governor. In Thursday's newspaper, there was a letter claiming that such action would be unconstitutional.

Here's the real deal.

Rep. Tina Sablan, as a member of the CNMI Legislature, is fully empowered and completely within her CNMI constitutional duties and rights to call for impeachment of the lieutenant governor. The CNMI Legislature is fully empowered to consider and move on impeachment of the lieutenant governor. Article III, Section 19 and Article II, Section 8 of the CNMI Constitution specifically authorize such action.

There is *nothing* in the CNMI Constitution or the U.S. Constitution that protects an elected official from facing impeachment proceedings and criminal charges simultaneously. Unfortunately, the Thursday letter writer, Cristy Sablan of San Antonio, misinforms the public both as to facts and conclusions about the law.

The Illinois governor, Rod Blagogevich, was arrested on federal criminal charges for corruption. The Illinois legislative panel that recommended impeachment did so based on the criminal charges, as well as other allegations of misconduct. The situation is very telling for our present predicament.

This is not an isolated example, either. In 2004, Oklahoma lawmakers voted on impeachment of the state Insurance Commissioner while he faced two trials on five felony charges.

As explained in a news article by journalist Patrick Butler, "While federal criminal charges are pending, one need not be guilty of a criminal offense to be impeached. Unfitness for office and ignoring the legislature in major decisions may be reason enough."

The letter writer, Cristy Sablan, confuses the presumption of innocence that is part of our criminal jurisprudence with the power of the Legislature to decide issues of job tenure. Being presumed innocent of criminal charges does not mean that you cannot face impeachment proceedings.

Certainly, if the CNMI Legislature decided to impeach the lieutenant governor, he would retain constitutional rights, including his 5th amendment right against self-incrimination and could not be made to testify or produce evidence against himself. But the CNMI Legislature does not need evidence beyond a reasonable doubt proving guilt of the specific felony charges presently pending. They can consider all evidence related to any of the categories upon which impeachment is founded.

In such circumstances as exist here—indictments on federal felony charges involving honesty while in public service—it is almost inconceivable that our Legislature is *not* considering impeachment. At the least, they should have a committee investigate and make recommendations. Then the House would vote on the recommendations and if they voted "for impeachment," they would really be voting for a trial of the charges for impeachment to be held in the Senate. Upon a two-thirds majority House vote for "impeachment," the matter would go to the Senate for trial and vote on whether to "convict" on the impeachment—not on the criminal charges.

The effect of impeachment is to oust an elected official from his job. There are no jail terms or other criminal effects. There is no "lynch mob" or hanging of the lieutenant governor "from the highest tree."

So there is no problem "letting the judicial process run its course" and conducting impeachment proceedings at the same time. Ms. Cristy Sablan is wrong. Ms. Tina Sablan is right.

Jane Mack
San Vicente, Saipan

Capital Hill bullies

I have been using the term "Capital Hill bullies" to refer to some of our government leaders. Here is a definition of bully from Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language. *Bully: a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers or intimidates smaller or weaker people.* We know these kind of people from our school days, those people who are a little bigger than their peers that gain favors by providing protection, giving away treats, pushing around other students, talking back or being impolite, etc. I think you can understand my meaning.

I have been observing our leadership on Capital Hill and some of them appear to fit the bully definition. For example:

1) The House Speaker and several other older house members try to push down Rep. Sablan to stop her from raising objections, asking questions and calling for points of order. Remember: "C'mon Tina, get on the train."

2) Our governor sued the federal government, takes control of critical departments, fires directors of departments for no apparent reason, etc.

3) Tim and James allegedly put pressure on the CUC management for some purchases.

4) The votes in the House seem to follow the "good old boys" leadership recommendations, and they all vote as a group, with few objections because the leaders are bullying the others who in their heart disagree.

5) Some older House members, for some reason, do not want a transparent Legislature. Bullies like to hide their power.

6) Legislation is put before the house by strong legislators without due process, and push for a vote with no review and no thought. Bullies cannot stand up to review and criticisms.

7) Sole-source contracts are granted outside the governance process by people with their own agendas. Even when objections are made, the good guys are overruled.

8) Legislators pass "feel good" bills that are intended to gain voting favors and do not address the critical problems the CNMI face. Bullies need to keep public support by giving favors.

9) Tim will not do the right thing and step down from his position. Bullies do not like to give in and will fight even when they are wrong.

My list could go on and on, the newspapers are full of other bullying examples. The characteristic of all nine of the above; they are pushed or controlled by bullies, people are bullied to agree and bullying is part of our culture in the CNMI. This is one reason we have so much corruption, special favors, nepotism, uneven justice and poor management.

Bullies like to put weak people or family members in jobs below them so they can control what happens. They want to keep control of money and people because this is their source of power. They give gifts to voters to stay in power. (The voter does not realize that the bully is like a playground kid that keeps three sticks of gum for each that is given away.) This is why the CNMI is bankrupt. Think about it! Is it true that our government is run by a bunch of bullies?

What can we do? We must *stop* voting for the same bullies year after year, things will never change if we continue the culture of letting others bully us. The CNMI needs help, we need change!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

KEY

From Page 10

land), that would clearly attract new investors to the CNMI. Liberalizing our existing land ownership law would give potential investors the needed boost and confidence to seriously consider investing in the CNMI. So far, potential investors have shied away from the CNMI because we have not given investors a strong reason to invest here. The land ownership paradigm of the past 30 years has got to change, if investors are to consider making the CNMI their home.

It is incumbent (indeed, mandatory) for the CNMI government to take the initiative in luring investors to the CNMI. But we must also work hard to ensure that existing investors do not leave the CNMI. The CNMI simply cannot afford to lose our present investors to other places. An initiative to liberalize our land laws, for example, would immediately instill confidence in existing and potential investors. Amending and liberalizing our land ownership laws would be one of the best actions we could take to show our renewed commitment to investors and to improve our economy. The CNMI government must show investors that it is in fact committed to make the CNMI *an investor-friendly place*. But we need to take affirmative action to do so. Lip service is not enough.

To be continued.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former justice in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers. East winds 25 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼74°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

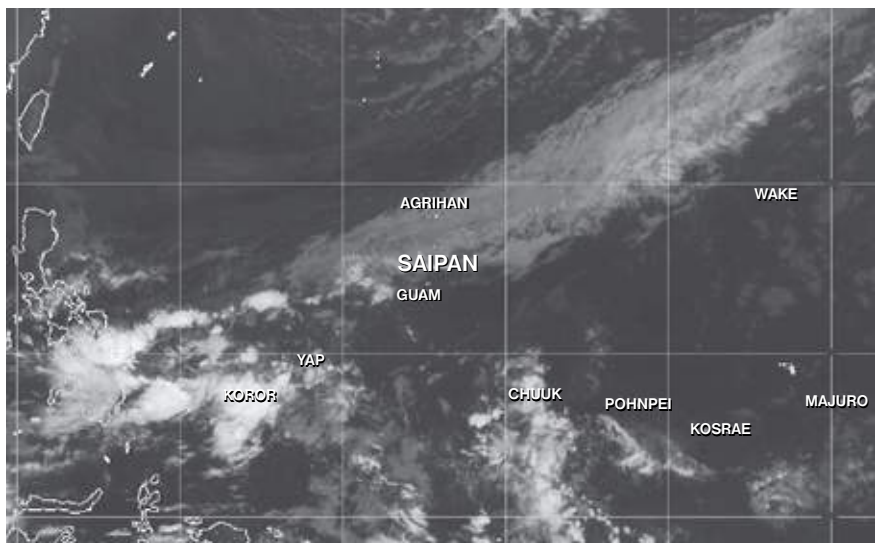
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲82	▼73
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲73	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼27
Hong Kong	Sun with Haze	▲75	▼70
Honolulu	Showers	▲75	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Showers	▲60	▼44
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲73	▼56
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼66
New York	Cloudy	▲43	▼30
Osaka	Cloudy	▲61	▼53
Paris	Cloudy	▲38	▼29
Pusan	Rain	▲63	▼38
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲44	▼23
Salem	Showers	▲43	▼27
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼43
Seoul	Rain	▲46	▼27
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲54	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N170E to 20N155E then continues as a shear line through the Northern Marianas at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 150 miles southeast of the cold front west of 150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from a circulation centered northwest of Palau at 10N130E to end at EQ151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are found just northwest of Koror between 7N and 11N from 130E to 135E. Strong upper-level divergence is teaming with convergent low-level west winds south of the trough axis to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap between 2N and 7N from 136E to 140E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk in an area bounded by a line from 2N150E to 9N151E to 4N161E back to 2N150E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Majuro between the equator and 3N from 168E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:09 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:18 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:52 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:34 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:43 PM	8:59 AM
Saturday	10:36 PM	9:38 AM
Sunday	11:29 PM	10:19 AM
Monday		11:02 AM
Tuesday	12:22 AM	11:47 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Absurd

Having read Mr. Bruce Jorgensen's response, it was obvious that he was diverting and obscuring from the real issue his original response to Mr. Jesse Torres' letter to the editor regarding our inability to vote in the United States presidential election.

Surprised to know that millions of Americans residing in the United States do not contribute to the federal tax system but still participate in the presidential electoral process, he now spends one paragraph trying to explain how felons are not allowed to vote and devotes his entire comments on Article 12, attacks trying to discredit me and the utter absurdity of a possible ghost writer.

Golly gee willikers, Bruce, my ghost writers are Fred, Doris and Arnold Ziffel from the TV series *Green Acres*. Didn't the Secretary of the Treasury Geitner fail to pay tax along with other Cabinet appointments like Tom Daschle but didn't have to go to jail?

Also, you suggest that felons in the United States are not allowed to vote. You may want you to revisit that statement since there are 13 states that allow felons to vote after they are released from prison. Maine and Vermont do not revoke a felon's right to vote even if they are incarcerated.

In Wabol vs. Villacrusis one of the main arguments was that Article 12 violates the U.S. Constitution. The justices in making their determination relied in the "insular cases." The court found that the interest of both the CNMI and the United States were at stake and that without alienation restrictions, the political union between the United States and the CNMI would not exist.

To even suggest Article 12 violates the U.S. Constitution is contradicted by plain terms of Section 805 of the Covenant, which exempts from constitutional requirements CNMI restrictions on land alienation.

The court further stated: "It would truly be anomalous to construe the equal protection clause to force the United States to break its pledge to preserve and protect NMI culture and property. The Bill of Rights was not intended to interfere with the performance of international obligations. Nor was it intended to operate as a genocide pact for diverse native cultures…Its bold purpose was to protect minority rights, not to enforce homogeneity."

Some suggest repealing Article 12 because it is discriminatory or has not represented anything positive economically or purport that economic conditions today are a direct result of Article 12. This is totally absurd. What say these critics about the current economic crisis, housing foreclosures, bankrupted financial institutions, frozen credit crisis that millions of Americans are experiencing in the United States and the ill-effects that followed the Asian and European economic crises?

Many have failed to realize that Article 12 or land alienation laws never considered economic benefits as a primary factor. The intent was to preserve and protect social, family, and

See ABSURD on Page 14

Override the governor's veto

Not overriding the governor's veto of the budget bill will seriously mean your seats in office, legislators. The rate and level of frustration of a depressed community could be detrimental to all the seats of the incumbents.

We urge all of you to do the right thing and override the governor's veto.

The justification is there, such as:

1.) CUC: Currently still has two engines—No. 6 and 8—operating without any light at the end of the tunnel, even after a professional was hired from American Samoa.

2.) As we predicted, an emergency declaration occurred, and the excuse is Aggreko! Where are the parts for such a rehabilitation and repair effort? Are they on island? Have they been ordered? Too many scientist and experts but no solution.

3.) Political hires in all government agencies such as DPS, DPL and DCCA is beyond comprehension. Nearly 400 new employees in the recent months were hired while the Governor was calling for cutbacks in expenditures.

All of you need to understand that this Governor is using and abusing his executive authority certifying the hiring of new employees (political constituents) to gain support for his gubernatorial election in nine months.

4.) Until such time that this governor eliminates and recalls all his 400 political hires, to include removal of non-essential and non-productive Cabinet members, and that he guarantee's that all debts such as auto loans, personal loans, home loans, and all other employee obligation are taken cared of by him and his administration.

Override the veto on the budget bill.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILE!? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS: To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
PAINT & PAINT PRODUCTS
SPECTRUM: Premium quality paints for the tropics, A UNIQUE SUPERBRAND PAINT!
Flat white latex paint: $55.00/pail
Semi-gloss white latex paint: $68.00/pail
Flat white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
Semi-gloss white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
Gloss white enamel paint: $68.00/pail
(16 liters or 4.25 gallons =1 Pail)
PROMOTION: FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00
FLAT LATEX $14.00/Gallon
SEMI-GLOSS LATEX $16.00/Gallon
ON SALE ALL PAINT ACCESSORIES!
CERAMIC TILES
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES,
12"*12" = $0.79/pc.
8"*12" = $0.52/pc.
FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF CERAMIC TILES WORTH $600.00, GET 1 PAIL TILE ADHESIVE (HENRY 314) FOR FREE
OTHERS
CEMENT $6.30/BAG
FOR OVER 30 BAGS
$3.00 DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU)
4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
REBAR-$920.00/SHORT TON
WATERCLOSET $78 UP • SINK $29 UP
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X6 & 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER
2*4*20 REGULAR: $6.60
2*4*20 TREATED: $11.25

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.80	2X4X12 - $6.30
2X4X14 - $4.60	2X4X14 - $7.30
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $5.80	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.40	2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $6.90	2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $7.90	2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $14.20
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $15.20
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $17.20

JOINT COMPOUND $19.90/5GALS
ABS PIPE 4" $39.50
5/8" FLYFORM: $24.50
TILE ADHESIVE HENRY 314 $38.00/4 Gals
GYPSUM BOARD: 1/2" $10.20 - 5/8" $15.90
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
Never satisfied until you are
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

MICROL TOYOTA
SPECIALS OF THE WEEK
2003 LEXUS LS430
Auto, Ivory, Stock: R08-003F
License: ADU-502
Mileage: 54477
PRICE $29,999
REDUCED PRICE
$26,899

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
U09-001L	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	32900	WHITE	ACE-506	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-011T	2003	NISSAN FRONTIER XE KINGCAB	AUTO	46781	SAND		8,999	
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	10,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA ACDelco

Common sense

Saipan is unique in the Pacific region. It has been blessed for many years relative to veterinary medicine. This started years ago when Dr. Dela Cruz came back to Saipan from veterinary school.

The amazing fact is that there are only three islands in the Pacific region that are blessed in this way. We are not counting Guam or Hawaii due to their long histories with the veterinary profession. Palau and American Samoa also enjoy the presence of a "government" veterinarian. These three veterinarians are tasked with animal regulatory matters, and other governmental responsibilities on their respective islands. Saipan stands out as the only island in the Pacific (again, not counting Guam or Hawaii) that not only has a government veterinarian but also a private practicing veterinarian.

If you live in the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, the Mortlocks, or Kiribati, to name just a few, it's accurate to say that you may never see a veterinarian on those islands.

Animals throughout the Pacific are born and die at the discretion of Mother Nature. A broken leg stays broken, a tumor kills the animal, countless diseases ravage the dog and cat populations. Maximum life expectancy averages three years, with much less for the feral animals.

Even on Saipan, 90 percent of pets die within the first six months of life, although the cared for percentage of pets is now routinely approaching a 15-year life expectancy. Compare this with the 8-year life expectancy when I got here in 2001.

Mother Nature is more concerned with efficient population control than with improving lives and conditions. Unfortunately, this is who is in charge of animal control on Saipan.

Look what happened to the human population once we put constraints on Mother Nature with vaccinations, improved nutrition, and overall health care. No longer do we see hundreds of thousands of people dying of typhus and cholera. No longer do children die of polio, whooping cough or typhoid fever. How many want to go back to 1950s health care for their family?

The responsibility of the veterinarian is the pet/animal side of this equation. My job as a practicing veterinarian is to keep Mother Nature at bay. My efforts are enhanced when working with concerned pet owners and my overall success depends largely on this cadre of individuals.

This sometimes runs counter to peoples' financial concerns but lack of preventative care is penny wise and pound foolish. The unvaccinated, uncared for pet dies at the same rate as the feral animal population, simply because the owners in question have surrendered the responsibility of health care to Mother Nature.

How many people would bring their pets back for spaying and/or neutering if "only" 5 percent died post op. Even this "small" surgical mortality rate would dissuade most pet owners from having spays and neuters performed on their pets, and rightly so.

Remember a few years back when the bean counters in the HMOs tried to dictate to the physicians what they could and couldn't do? Their emphasis on financial management over medical management very often met with fatal consequences.

A zero percent mortality rate with elective surgeries is not only possible but attainable by observing current standards of care relative to surgical risk management. At Paradise Island Animal Hospital we follow current standards of care.

One of my goals when I moved to Saipan was to show other veterinarians that you could make a living practicing veterinary medicine on the islands of the Pacific, while practicing according to 2009 standards.

What a difference another five or six veterinarians scattered thoughout the Pacific region would make. Two other veterinarians had come to Saipan to establish veterinary practices, and two left. They found the environment not suited to running a private veterinary practice. That number is actually 10-12 if you count all of the "relief veterinarians" that worked at PIAH while it was for sale, and chose not to stay and buy the practice; and don't forget Dr. John Thomas who left after only two weeks on Saipan. He left due to a threatened revocation of his license by the CNMI government without the benefit of any due process.

The clear message that Saipan has been sending for many years is that veterinarians are expendable. But how expendable are they? How difficult would it be for any small town to attract a practicing veterinarian? How about if that town was 10,000 miles from the U.S. mainland? What if that town had a rapidly failing economy? What if that town had consistently shown a lack of respect for anyone in the veterinary profession?

The overwhelming majority of Saipan residents are waiting for a mythological veterinarian that cares nothing about money, charges only what people can "afford", and happily goes through his day helping the poor. I don't know of anyone that can measure up to that ideal, and yet it persists with many unmet expectations.

There are approximately 86,000 veterinarians in the mainland U.S., and only one found his way out to the island of Saipan and stayed. The odds of getting another veterinarian would be 1 in 86,000 or 0.0012 percent. The odds of being struck by lightning twice in the same spot are probably greater.

Veterinarians, like most people, tend to go where success is ensured, or at least likely. Veterinarians are obliged to run a business in order to keep their hospitals open. We are not considered for economic stimulus money, but then we do not cause wholesale collapse of economies either. In short, the grass is not greener on the other side of the fence; it's greener where you water it. This is the reality of every endeavor.

Imagine having a veterinarian that practices good medicine and surgery, and stays for 20 years, hopefully attracting other veterinarians. That's how you get choices.

Saipan has been blessed but is in danger of squandering this blessing. It may not get another change given the economy, and the reality of life in the Pacific. This makes me very sad.

Edgar G Tudor, DVM
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Shell
V-Power®
Developed with
Fly to the Grand Prix!
Win a trip for two to the Formula One Grand Prix in Fuji, Japan! With every $20 cash purchase of Shell fuel, receive an entry form for a chance to win. Redeem your Lucky 7 Passport and receive an additional entry form.
Other Prizes include:
One round trip ticket via Northwest Airlines® to select Formula One Grand Prix locations including Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Shanghai
(5) $200 Shell V-Power® Premium Gasoline totaling $1000
(2) $300 payment for 6 months on an auto-related bill:
• Auto Loan • Auto Insurance payments • Auto Customizing
Get Lucky 7 Double Stamps with every Shell V-Power purchase.
*Rules and conditions apply. See store for details.
made to move
nwa WorldPerks.

ABSURD

From Page 13

cultural values represented by the land, which is practiced in the CNMI, American Samoa, FSM, Marshalls, Palau, and even in Guam.

Considering that the total landmass for the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Marshall Island and the Federated States of Micronesia equates to 910 square miles or a landmass significantly smaller than Rhode Island, which is a little over 1,200 square miles, one would wonder why anyone would invest time in our Article 12 law.

For this matter we need only concern ourselves with the court's ruling and the fact that many legal scholars from renowned educational institutions have examined and concurred with the court's decision.

My "politico wannabe" aspirations are in order. I feel more than qualified to be a politico wannabe, having served along with my other Army brothers for a commander-in-chief that we cannot vote for. Along with my military service, I offer my education and my keen sense to articulate on issues concerning the CNMI. I don't believe I have to pass muster with you since the ultimate decision rests upon the people of the CNMI.

Danny Aquino Jr.
Susupe, Saipan

Amend scholarship rules

FALL 2008 FIGURES

Full time EAP on island	:	373
Full time EAP off island	:	468
Full time SHEFA on island	:	210
Full time SHEFA off island	:	235

The CNMI could inject about $22,256,000 per year into the local economy if scholarship recipients were first obliged to attend one or two years at NMC before moving on to a university elsewhere.

For each and every student that stays and attends NMC, about $17,120 stays here in the CNMI each year. A full time student pays around $3,420 per year in tuition and $1,200 per year in books. Utilities consumed by each student per year is about $1,200. Around $2,200 per year is spent on food. About $2,400 per year is spent on gas for each student who drives. A one-bedroom apartment costs about $300 per month. That amounts up to $3,600 per year on rent. Nowadays, cell phones are considered necessities for college students. Each student spends an average of $50 per month on cell phones, amounting up to $600 per year. For entertainment and services, each student spends up to $2,500. Entertainment includes cable, internet, movies, bowling, parties, and many others.

We, the NMC alumni association, are asking CNMI lawmakers to look into requiring students who receive SHEFA or CNMI scholarship to attend one or two years at NMC. This would result to around 1,300 students attending NMC and contributing to our dying economy. That amounts up to $22,256,000 per year for the CNMI's economy. This money would stay in our local economy and help create and secure jobs for many years to come. The figure could be even higher, because of other types of spending. Let's not forget the taxes paid by students with jobs (additional revenue for the CNMI government). Our colleges, banks, grocery stores, apartments, restaurants, gas stations, movie theatres, telecommunication companies, CUC and many others would all benefit.

Scholarships that are offered in California and other parts of the U.S. require that recipients attend a college or university within the state offering the scholarship. We should, however, allow students to attend school elsewhere, if their field of studies is not offered at NMC or if accreditation does not happen. It is important for us to invest in ourselves. If we do this, NMC wouldn't have to rely heavily on government funding. This would also allow them to offer more programs and higher degrees in the future, because of the revenue generation. We must support our only college, and at the same time, help rebuild our economy. Support our local colleges, support our local businesses, support our local workforce, support our local products, and support our local economy.

Jesse D. Torres
President, NMC Alumni Association

Telling it like it is

This is a reply to Mr. Bill Stewarts' opinion on Monday, Feb. 9, 2009. He was to the point, and sometimes the truth hurts! I moved to Saipan in early 2001, and have always taken the time to read anything he has published because it is always valuable, never slanted and contains very factual information. I admire his straightforward and honest comments and remarks. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience after residing here for over 30 years.

Anyone who has not taken the time (25 minutes) to view Adam Yamaguchis' documentary on Saipan's decline is not open to the facts. It does not give a happy or warm feeling when you see where we are headed. If you care about the future of Saipan, please take the time to watch it. It is a great lesson of government inaction or, as Mr. Stewart wrote, "neglect." If all the schools could take a field trip to La Fiesta to see first-hand the disrepair and total lack of maintenance whatsoever, they could see what the majority of both past and present do-nothing elected leaders have left behind for them to remember when they are of age to voice their selections and opinions at the polls. Of course, the liability issue of walking into "La Fiasco", with the rotten plywood(etc.), is not where our school children or teens should be going.

It is an old story of the blame-game that's full of lame excuses! Yes, too little, too late. The garment factories are not to blame for packing up shop and leaving the island. When you rent a house, most landlords require a security deposit to cover any expenses incurred if a tenant leaves the building in a state of disrepair or requiring cleanup.

The Fitial administration is now seeking prospects from any investors with legitimate ideas who will renovate, restore and transform La Fiesta from an eyesore to the jewel it once was. The only thing I have noticed being done there is to have the Department of Corrections come and trim as well as clean up the foliage sporadically. Maybe CUC could provide replacement wiring also, so there would be electricity again. Thank you Mr. Stewart and Mr. Yamaguchi for telling it like it is! I would love to see some private investor(s) to have the foresight and guts to bring the mall back to life.

Steve Myers
Marpi, Saipan

Love in a Time of Diabetes
Show each other you really care
Take control of your diabetes & reduce your risk of heart diseases
Learn about diabetes and it's complications
Cook healthier meals together
Plan a daily physical activity that you and your partner will enjoy (walking, biking, gardening)
Stay tobacco free
Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.
To learn more, please contact the Division of Public Health Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at 664-4030/1

Matubis case is now closed, says DPS

The investigation into the case of Filipino surveyor Alex Manga Matubis is already closed, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS said the Matubis case is considered closed after investigators concluded that the remains found in Marpi last month were indeed those of the missing Matubis and that he committed suicide.

DPS made the conclusion based on the results of the forensic examination as well as evidence gathered at the scene and interviews.

Guam forensic pathologist Dr. Aurelio Espinola conducted last Friday night his examination on the remains at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that Matubis' remains are still at the CHC's morgue pending release by the Attorney General's Office.

It was not clear yet whether the remains will be brought to the Philippines.

Matubis was reported missing last July 30. Last Aug. 19, investigators found his service pickup abandoned near Kalabera Cave.

Matubis

The farm where the skeletal remains were found is located about a 10-minute drive west of Kalabera Cave, according to DPS. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Female diving instructor rescues stranded tourist outside reef line

A female dive instructor rescued a tourist who got stranded outside the reef line at Obyan Beach Monday afternoon.

The Department of Public Safety commended the dive instructor, Ranko Oryog of the Aqua Marine Dive Shop, for "her exceptional bravery and help in rescuing the victim."

The victim, Pavel Barbanakov, 48, Russian, had no injuries and refused to be taken to the hospital.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that on Monday at 1:57pm, DPS received a report of a stranded swimmer at Obyan Beach.

Boating Safety officers boarded two jet skis and left Sugar Dock to proceed to the area.

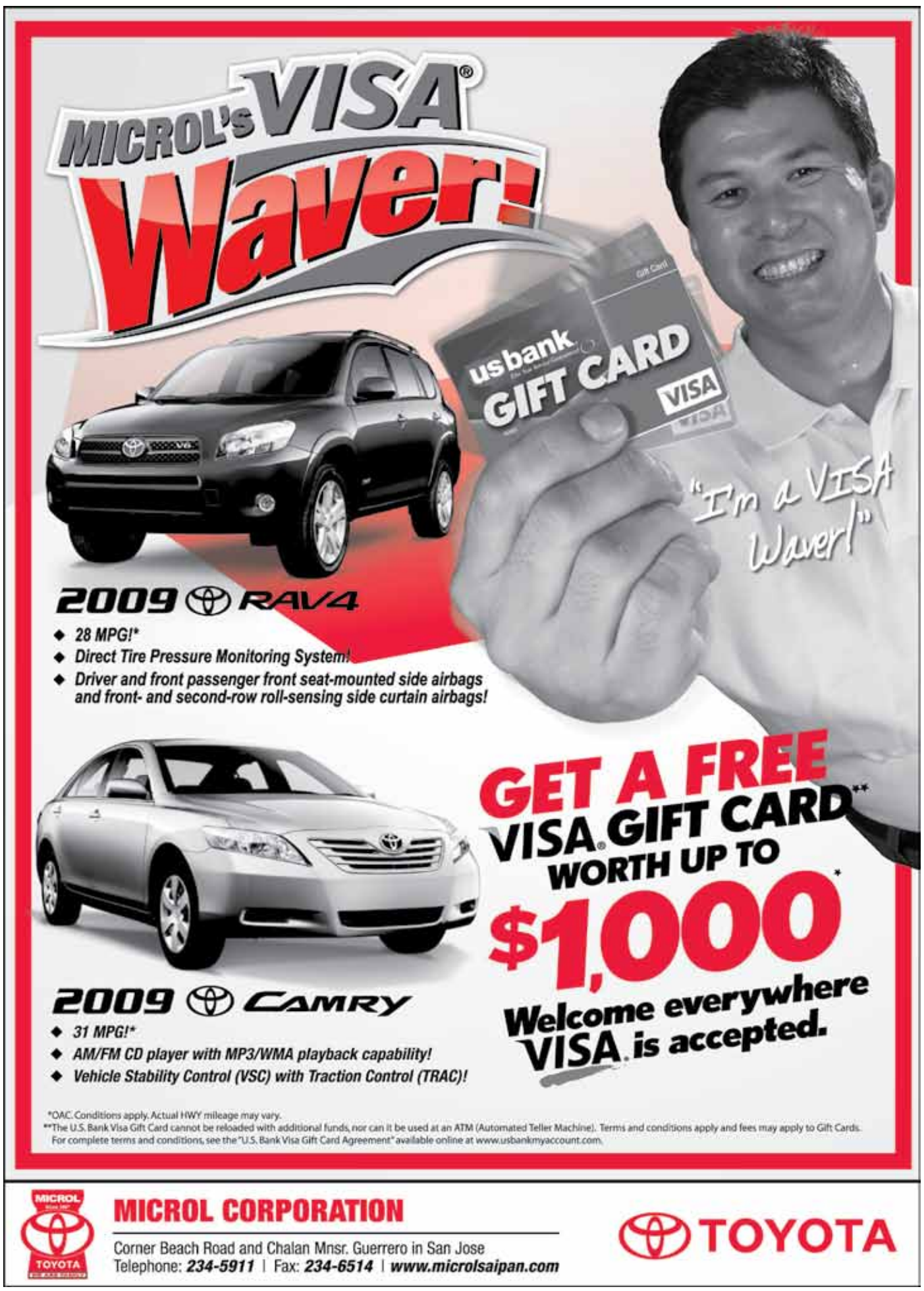
Ogumoro said that when the officers arrived, Barbanakov had already been rescued by Oryog, who was diving in the area.

Oryog brought the tourist to the diving boat anchored at the Obyan dive spot.

The officers transported the victim from the boat to the beach where they interviewed him.

Ogumoro quoted Barbanakov as saying that he, his wife and sin went to Obyan Beach to snorkel.

While Barbanakov was swimming near the reef line, a strong current pulled him outside the reef. He attempted to swim back, but the current was too strong. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


MICROL's VISA®
Waver!
us bank
GIFT CARD
VISA
"I'm a VISA Waver!"
2009 RAV4
◆ 28 MPG!*
◆ Direct Tire Pressure Monitoring System!
◆ Driver and front passenger front seat-mounted side airbags and front- and second-row roll-sensing side curtain airbags!
GET A FREE
VISA GIFT CARD**
WORTH UP TO
$1,000*
2009 CAMRY
◆ 31 MPG!*
◆ AM/FM CD player with MP3/WMA playback capability!
◆ Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) with Traction Control (TRAC)!
Welcome everywhere VISA is accepted.
*OAC. Conditions apply. Actual HWY mileage may vary.
**The U.S. Bank Visa Gift Card cannot be reloaded with additional funds, nor can it be used at an ATM (Automated Teller Machine). Terms and conditions apply and fees may apply to Gift Cards. For complete terms and conditions, see the "U.S. Bank Visa Gift Card Agreement" available online at www.usbankmyaccount.com.
MICROL CORPORATION
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA

Kato wants public lawyer to help him clear his name

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Claiming he can't afford to pay attorney's fee anymore, Japanese businessman Hideo Kato said he is hoping that the Public Defender's Office will represent him in clearing his name from allegations that he was engaged in illegal gambling.

Kato's first lawyer, Antonio M. Atalig, is in jail for civil contempt. His second counsel, attorney Victorino Torres, withdrew as his lawyer last week.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo set a status conference for March 12, 2009, telling Kato to come up with a new lawyer on that day.

The jury trial was set for Oct. 12, 2009.

Kato told *Saipan Tribune* that he wants to pursue a trial because he is not guilty of the charges.

"I want to have a trial, but I can't afford to pay a lawyer now. Because of this case I lost my businesses, I lost my face, I lost many friends," the 72-year-old businessman said.

Kato hopes the Public Defender's Office will assist him in getting justice.

He emphasized that there was never any intent to operate an illegal gambling joint as their goal was simply to put up a "charity casino" to help the poor people on Saipan pay for their electric billings.

Kato spent eight days at the Department of Corrections after the Attorney General's Investigative Unit raided an alleged illegal casino at Victoria Hotel in western Garapan on Aug. 24, 2007.

The Attorney General's Office charged Kato and businessman Byoong Seob Choi with 119 counts of illegal gambling activity and unlawful employment of aliens.

Choi recently pleaded "no contest" to two counts of unlawful employment of aliens. He was sentenced to three years probation.

'Bright prospect' for Flame Tree Festival despite crisis

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 11 stall owners, including seven in the food and four in the arts, have confirmed their participation in the first two days of registration for the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival, scheduled for April 23-26 at the Civic Center in Saipan.

"So far so good. There are other callers but because they are busy with other things they have reserved time to come and make their own registration. This is a good indication that we will have a good turnout despite the economic crisis," said Arts Coordinator Parker Yobei.

He said several new artists want to join but they will have to register first.

Registration started last Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the office of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

The annual event features the diversity of culture in the region and abroad, ranging from traditional and contemporary visual, to performing and culinary arts.

Registration costs are $100 for traditional/visual artists, $100 for information booths, $300 for non-profit organization, and $600 for food/business vendors.

Interested individuals or business establishments must submit copies of their business license or food handlers' certificate or non-profit charter.

CCAC is encouraging vendors to make their registration early because there are only 20 slots for the food sector and 60 other slots that are available.

Please call 670-322-9982/83 or e-mail marianasarts@pticom.com for more details.

Preparations for the festival started as early as January with invitations to arts council agencies in other neighboring islands like Palau, Hawaii, Guam, and Federated States of Micronesia and from Tinian, Rota and Saipan.

This annual event started as a small art fair in 1981 and is now considered the largest arts festival in Micronesia, with the intention to provide opportunities for everyone to be exposed and learn different cultural and artistic values.

The event will be highlighted by education workshops, presentation of local arts, cultural performances, traditional preparation of food, traditional games, exhibits of arts and crafts, parade of cultures and traditional canoe building workshops.

HANNAM MARKET | KAGMAN MARKET

288-9290/3639 256-4989

OPEN 24 HRS

Valentine's Special Sale

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2009

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

- Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case — SALE $16.99 22 lbs. / SALE $20.99 33 lbs.
- Sun-Land Whole Young Chicken — SALE $33.99/case Limit 1
- Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut — SALE $15.49 20 lbs. Limit 2
- Baby Ribs — SALE $12.99 10 lbs. Limit 2
- Gusto Smoked — SALE $1.99 /lb.
- Beef Back Ribs Limit 2 — SALE $24.99/20 lbs.
- Lotus Brand Rice — SALE $23.99 50 lbs.
- Diamond G Calrose Rice Limit 1 — SALE $32.99 50 lbs.
- Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1 — SALE $27.99 50 lbs.
- Salad Oil 5 Galllon Limit 1 — SALE $26.99
- Milk Fish — SALE $1.39 / lb. $54.99/case
- Tilapia — 99¢/lb. SALE $37.99/case
- Ichiban — SALE $7.99 Original Limit 1 Case
- Spam All Flavors — SALE $1.99/each Limit 1 Case
- Rits Soda All Flavor — SALE $10.99/case Limit 1 Case
- Budweiser/Bud Light Warm only — SALE $24.99/case Limit 1 Case
- Miller Lite — SALE $22.99/case Limit 1 Case
- HITE Beer — SALE $14.50/case Limit 1 Case

GROCERY ITEMS

- Hormel Chili (No Beans) — SALE $1.59 Limit 12
- Hormel Corned Beef Hash — SALE $1.79 Limit 12
- Sunflower Tuna — SALE $1.09 Limit 12
- Sunflower Mackerel — SALE $1.49
- Coco Tuna — SALE 99¢ Limit 12
- Coco Mackerel — SALE $1.29/each
- Ligo Sardines — SALE 3 for $1.00 Limit 12
- Armour Vienna Sausage — SALE 59¢/each
- Ox & Plam Corned Beef Limit 12 — $2.29/each
- Del Monte Kernel Corn — SALE 69¢
- Del Monte Fruit Cocktail — SALE $3.99
- Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors — SALE $1.29
- Hosen Fruit Cocktail — SALE $3.95
- Black Label Luncheon Meat — SALE $1.39 Limit 12
- Carnation Milk — SALE 99¢
- Golden State Vinegar — SALE $2.99
- Sugar — SALE $1.59/kg.
- Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) — SALE $3.79 1.6 lr.
- Fresco Cooking Oil — SALE $7.99
- Argo Cornstarch — SALE 79¢
- Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. — SALE 99¢
- Vlassic Dill Pickles — $6.99 Whole / $5.95 Whole
- Chamorro Punch — SALE $8.99
- Seoksu Water 500 ml. — SALE $5.99/case
- Sunkist All Flavors — SALE $5.95/case
- Kool Aid 34 Qrt. — SALE $6.95
- Nestea 36 qts. — SALE $6.99
- Zest-O Juice All Flavors — SALE $1.95
- Morton Salt — SALE 69¢
- Ventura Mayo 1 Gallon — SALE $9.95
- Ajinomoto 1 lb. — SALE 99¢
- Tang 22 quarts — SALE $5.99
- Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. — SALE $2.99
- Kimchee Base 450 G. — SALE $4.95
- Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. — SALE $7.99

NON-FOOD

- Charmin Tissue 24 Rolls — SALE $5.99
- Bounty 8 Rolls — SALE $7.95
- Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls — SALE $3.95
- Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls — SALE $8.99
- Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls — SALE $8.99
- Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs — SALE $4.50
- Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls — SALE $3.99
- Ariel 3 kg. — SALE $5.99
- Gain Liquid Detergent — SALE $4.99
- Suavitel 850 ml. — SALE $1.59
- Adult Diapers — SALE $7.95
- Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. — SALE $5.99
- Safeguard Bar Soap — SALE 59¢/each
- Clorox 96 oz. — SALE $2.99
- Pensonic Emergency Light with Fan — SALE $33.95
- Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes — SALE $16.95
- Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. — 2 for $2.50
- White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. — 2 for $2.95
- Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. — SALE $6.95
- Butane Gas — SALE $21.99/case Limit 2

FROZEN FOOD

- Chopped Ham — SALE $10.99/5 lbs. $17.99/10 lbs.
- Pork Riblets — SALE $10.99/cs.
- Beef Rib Finger — SALE $2.89/lb.
- Ground Pork — SALE $17.99/10 lbs.
- Ground Beef — SALE $15.99/10 lbs.
- Pork Butt — SALE $1.79/lb.
- Chamorro Sausage — SALE $3.99/pkg.
- Miller Sausage — SALE $14.99/pkg.
- Hoffy Portuguese Sausage — SALE $1.99/pkg.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks	$8.95
Pork Belly	$10.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Pork Spareribs	$6.95
Pork Chops	$13.95
Beef Stew	$13.95
Beef Backribs	$8.95
Beef Shortribs	$15.95
Stewing Chicken	$5.95
Quarter Leg s	$5.95

- Chicken Winggets — SALE $9.99/5 lbs.
- Bar S Bacon — SALE $2.49/pkg.
- Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage — SALE $3.49/pkg.
- Bar S Hot Links — SALE $1.99/4 pcs.
- Bar S Jumbo Franks — SALE $1.05/pkg.
- Dragon Raw Headon White Shrimp 16/20 — SALE $3.99/ 1lb.
- Turkey Tail — SALE $17.99/cs.
- Smoked Salmon Collar — SALE $25.99/10 lbs.
- Cut Crab — SALE $5.95/box
- Green Mussels — SALE $4.99/5 lbs.
- Vega Shrimp — SALE $4.99/lb.

PRODUCE

- Potato (Jumbo) — SALE 79¢/lb.
- Orange — SALE 89¢/lb.
- Orange Cielo — SALE $3.99/lb.
- Cantaloupe — SALE $1.29/lb.
- Red Onion — SALE 99¢/lb.
- Onion — SALE 59¢/lb.
- Garlic — SALE 89¢/pack-4 pcs.
- U.S. Eggs Extra Large — SALE $2.09/doz.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Inouyi thanked for GAO study on NMI, A. Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.— American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega said yesterday that he is personally thanking Sen. Daniel K. Inouye for including language in the stimulus package that would require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report on the past and future minimum wage increases in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"During my visit with Senator Inouye on Jan. 30, 2009, he informed me that he would be supporting our ongoing request to undertake a new minimum wage study, and I am appreciative that he did this in the Senate version of the stimulus bill," Faleomavaega said. "I also thank Governor Fitial of the CNMI who has worked side by side with me on this very important effort."

Faleomavaega related that he and Fitial met during the governor's last visit to Washington and both of them have been united in addressing this issue for the past two years.

"While we both agree that our workers deserve long overdue increase in their wages, we are also concerned about the lack of data on what impact future increases might have on our economies. This is why it is so important for a study to be undertaken which will give us a clearer picture about whether or not we can sustain future increases," he said.

If the U.S. House of Representatives agrees to this provision during its conference with the U.S. Senate, the GAO will be required to issue a report no earlier than March 15, 2009 and no later than April 15, 2009.

Inouye

Faleomavaega

Faleomavaega said this will give both the CNMI and American Samoa a window of opportunity to present the study's findings to Congress in case the economies of both territories cannot sustain a third increase in minimum wage, given the financial crisis the nation is now facing.

"Chairman Miller and I have briefly discussed this issue and his office has been in contact with mine regarding the significance of this study. While I have requested information from American Samoa's Chamber of Commerce, we will proceed forward with our data collection efforts which will involve the U.S. Department of Labor, the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Census at the Department of Commerce."

These agencies will be called upon to include American Samoa and CNMI in their household surveys and establishment surveys, in gross domestic product data, and in population estimates and demographic profiles, while the GAO will be required to issue a report this year and every year thereafter regarding the impact of past and future minimum wage increases in American Samoa and CNMI until the minimum wage reaches $7.25 per hour.

"The GAO will be required to consider factors that impact rates of employment and the living standards of workers such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities, and must also assess how the profitability of major private sector firms may be impacted by wage increases in comparison to other factors such as energy costs and the value of tax benefits."

"Again, I thank Senator Inouye, Senator Bingaman, Senator Murkowski, Senator Akaka, and their staffs, especially Marie Blanco and Al Stayman. I also thank Governor Togiola and the American Samoa Legislature for their support and assistance, and Governor Fitial of CNMI who has been a true friend to the people of American Samoa. I am hopeful that as a result of our collective efforts we can find new ways to strengthen our economies, provide for our workers, and encourage future investment in our Territories," Faleomavaega said. ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB09-GOV-057

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **ENCLOSURES OF ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANELS FOR WATER WELLS** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana.

Islands A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Program and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from both OIA and FEMA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:
- Construct Building Enclosures for the Electrical Control Panel of each Water Well located in the various sites of Saipan.
- Necessary relocation of power drop line/weather head connection into the building enclosure.
- Installation and provision of new control panels.
- Installation of underground conduits from the new control panel to the well.
- Installation of a new chain link fence around the perimeter.
- Where directed, construction of an exterior concrete pad, extending one foot beyond the perimeter fence.

A non-refundable payment of $100 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 13, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **February 27, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and address to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, no later than 4:30 on **February 27, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to local bidders per Article 7 of the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB09-GOV-057". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facisimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2009**, and must be received no later than **March 25, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 26, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 16, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

COUNTERFEITING WORKSHOP
U.S. Secret Service special agents Virgil Reichle, right, and Mac Bostic conduct counterfeit training for representatives of businesses and law enforcement agencies Wednesday at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's room in Garapan. Reichle said they have seen an increase in counterfeiting activity on Saipan the past 60 to 90 days.

APAFS kicks off country conference series in Pohnpei

Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, the premier non-profit association for fiduciary education, sets its 2009 Country Conferences series in motion, beginning with Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Slated to be held on Feb. 24, 2009, the Country Conference on Pohnpei will be the first of APAFS' regional conferences and will shed light on global and local finance issues. Similar conferences will be held during the year on Majuro, Chuuk, Saipan, Guam, Yap and Palau.

"APAFS aims to provide a holistic perspective on the current state of global economies, complemented by observations of regional trends. We want to equip fiduciaries and investment professionals with knowledge that can help them in their planning and decision-making for the year 2009," said APAFS executive director Daniel Roland, CIMA.

APAFS instructor Jason B. Miyashita, CRPS, AIF will share facts and insights in his talk, "Financial Crisis on a Global Scale" while APAFS chair Gerard Cruz will update attendees on the current status of APAFS.

Roland

Regional and local economic issues will also be highlighted in the conference. President of ASC Trust Corp., David John, will tackle the topic "The Effect of the Economic Crisis on Retirement Plans in the Region." The outlook for the U.S. domestic equity markets will be discussed by Jim Staub, SVP of Atalanta Sosnoff Capital Management and Jonathan Cangalosa, SVP of Golden Asset Management. The outlook for the global bond markets will be addressed by Bill Kalra of Payden & Rygel Asset Management.

ON THE NET
www.apafs.org

Around 75 individuals representing public funds, endowments and foundations, as well as local and national leaders, are expected to take part in the Country Conference. The 2009 Country Conference series will lead up to the Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, which will be held in Manila, Philippines. For more information on the conference series, go to www.apafs.org.

APAFS a non-profit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region. Members include public funds, endowments and foundations and public and private employee retirement plans. ***(PR)***

Upward Bound students volunteer at public library

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students and staff of the Northern Marianas College's Upward Bound Program take time out of their volunteer reading at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Saturday Reading Program to pose for a picture.

High school students of the Northern Marianas College's Upward Bound Program volunteered their time this past Saturday to read selected books to children ages 10 years and under at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Saturday Reading Program.

UBP students also engaged in other activities with the children, such as coloring and playing educational games.

CONTACT INFO
234-5498 ext. 1278,
e-mail mariant@nmcnet.edu
www.nmcnet.edu

"I certainly enjoyed the time we spent with the children, especially the look on their faces as we read to them," said UBP student Czarina Jucutan. "I look forward to doing this again."

The volunteer reading, which is one aspect of the community services in which Upward Bound students are encouraged to give back to the community, is part of the program's TRiO month celebration for the month of February. In addition to reading stories to elementary students, UBP students also attended seminars, participated in recreational activities, and took part in career exploration activities.

"This is a wonderful experience for the volunteer readers, especially those aspiring to become teachers and give back to the community," said Upward Bound director Marian Tudela. "I am sure that the students will continue to look back at this fulfilling experience and mirror it in every action they take."

The program, which offers its services to public high school students, is dedicated to its mission to guide students to success in secondary education, as well as encouraging students to enroll and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

There are 120 students currently enrolled in the program. Applications will be available from May through September 2009. For more information about the Upward Bound Program, call Tudela at 234-5498 ext. 1278, e-mail mariant@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC offers customer service courses

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their customer service and administrative skills.

The courses are offered as part of the College's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

Additionally, the classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The schedule and course fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class.

Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1005 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

CUSTOMER SERVICE COURSES

Communication in the Workplace
February 17-18, 2009 (5-8pm)
February 19-20, 2009 (5-7pm)
Fee: $95

Stress Management
February 23-27, 2009 (5-7pm)
Fee: $95

Basic Customer Service Skills Training
March 2-6, 2009 (5-7pm)
Fee: $95

Work Etiquette Training
March 9-10, 2009 (5-7pm)
Fee: $40

Time Management
March 11-12, 2009 (5-7pm)
Fee: $40

For a schedule of these classes, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

VALENTINE'S GREETING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Love is missing someone when you're apart but somehow it feels warm inside because your close in heart! Happy Valentine's to you babe/daddy! We miss you! Love always, your wife and girls (Lucille, Ophing, and Destynee Aguon).

American Red Cross sets 'Family Fun Day' Feb.14

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring for the first time a Family Fun Day at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club this Saturday, Feb. 14.

Kennedy Benjamin, ARC-NMI Health and Safety coordinator, said they expect about 200 military service members and their families to attend the daylong fun and activities.

The event will start at 9am with the registration of participants. Red Cross volunteers, instructors and staff will give presentations from 9:30am to 10:45am. Food will be served for the luncheon party at 11:00am to 12:30pm.

Benjamin said family members will have the option to take part in the family building activities from 1pm to 3pm or they could just use the PIC facilities until 6pm.

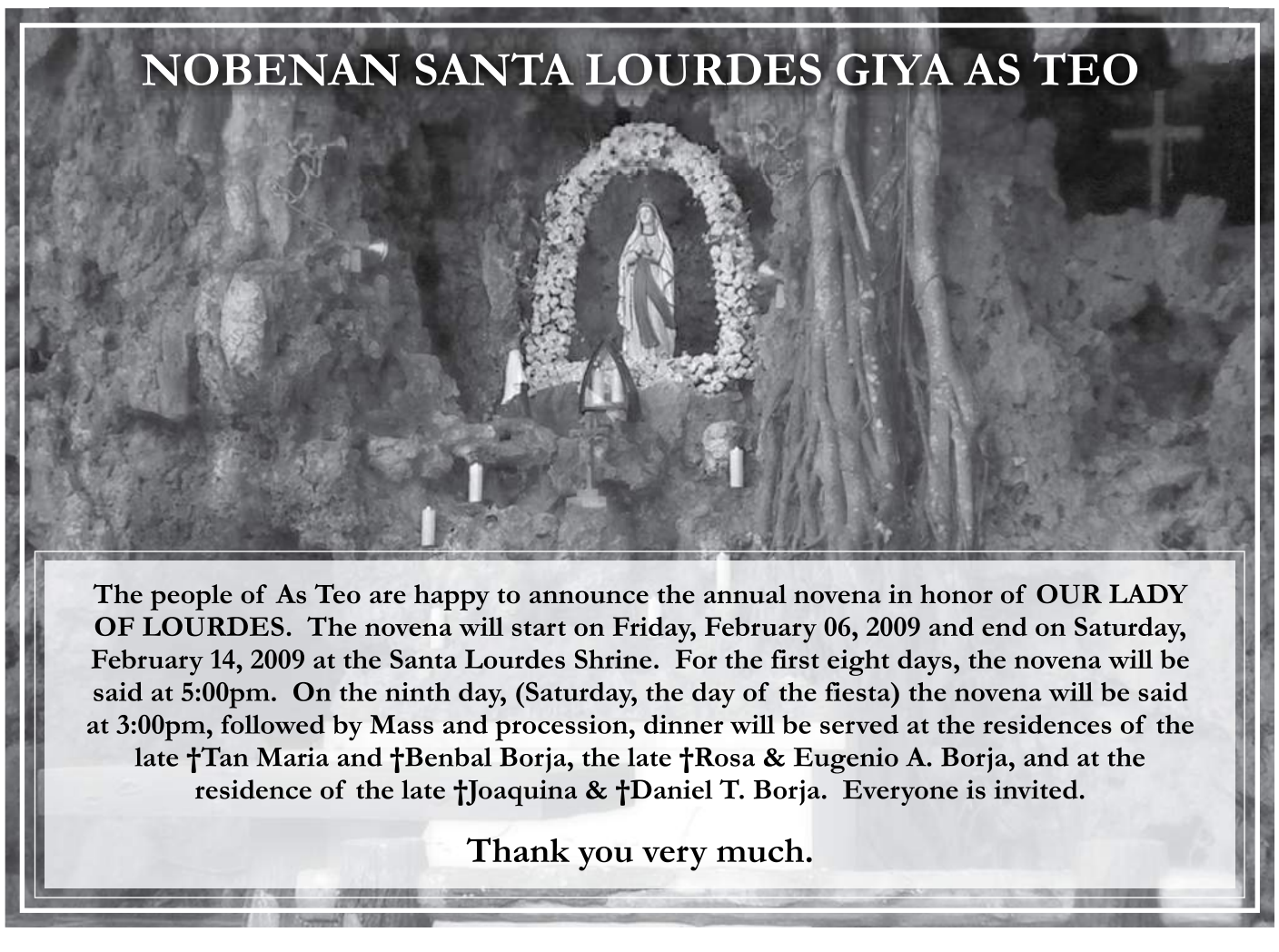
Benjamin said the Red Cross was able to sponsor this event through a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Secretary.

"We are anticipating 200 military service members and their families. This is a way to get all the families together to support one another," Benjamin said.

He said the event is just a simple way for Red Cross to say thank you to the military service members for "all the work that they do in protecting our freedom that we hold dear."

The participants will have the chance to gather and enjoy some great services that will be free of charge.

"It will be a day for family members to come together to enjoy great food, socialize with other families, and utilize the water park."


NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES GIYA AS TEO
The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 06, 2009 and end on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession, dinner will be served at the residences of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, the late †Rosa & Eugenio A. Borja, and at the residence of the late †Joaquina & †Daniel T. Borja. Everyone is invited.
Thank you very much.

IN CUC DISCONNECTION SCAM

Judge: More lenient sentence not acceptable

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court judge said that a more lenient sentence against a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. staff who was involved in a disconnection scam is "not acceptable."

Associate Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona said yesterday that she is not inclined to impose a more lenient sentence against Joaquin Elameto Norita given the impact the crime has had on CUC, a vital agency serving the entire community.

"Other individuals unfairly suffered when their power services were properly disconnected because they failed to pay their dues as required, yet the defendant allowed a select few to receive continued power services despite their continued failure to pay their dues as well," said the judge in rejecting Norita's plea for a more lenient sentence due to his family's needs.

Manglona sentenced the defendant to five years in prison, all suspended except for six months with no possibility of parole.

The 47-year-old Norita, who was convicted of violating the Commonwealth Utilities Code, was directed to start serving his six-month prison term at the Department of Corrections on March 1, 2009 at 8am.

After completing the term, the defendant will be placed on five years of supervised probation. He was ordered to pay a $250 fine, a $100 court assessment fee, and $100 in annual probation service fee.

Norita was also ordered to pay the maximum of $2,216.57 in total restitution to CUC. Manglona said the actual amount shall be determined at a restitution hearing, which is set for March 18, 2009.

She said the defendant shall assist and cooperate in the preparation for and prosecution of his co-defendants in the case.

The judge permanently barred Norita from re-employment with CUC and required him to write a letter of apology to CUC and CNMI citizens and have it published in local newspapers.

On May 24, 2007, authorities arrested Norita and four other former CUC employees who, in exchange for cash, allegedly conspired to reconnect individuals who have been disconnected or not disconnect delinquent accounts. The scheme reportedly resulted in a loss of over $300,000 for the utility agency.

Norita was then a disconnection crew. He and former colleagues Ricardo C. Sablan and Francisco F. Faisao, then credit and collection supervisor Elaine Q. Terlaje, and former customer service representative Rita I. Tarope were accused of conspiracy to commit theft and misconduct in public office.

Norita and court-appointed counsel Vincent Seman signed a plea agreement with the government represented by Special Assistant Attorneys General Joseph Przyuski and William Downer.

Last Monday Norita pleaded guilty to the offense of violating the Commonwealth Code, which is the sole charge remaining against him in the third amended charging document.

In a written order issued Wednesday, Manglona explained that whenever the prosecution and a criminal defendant reach a negotiated plea agreement, the court is not automatically bound to accept the terms without any consideration.

The court, Manglona said, has the discretion to reject the plea agreement, thereby forcing the parties to re-negotiate the agreement, or go forward with a trial, or face a less favorable disposition than that contemplated in the deal.

"However, the court also has to give deference to the prosecution's understanding of the nature of the evidence against a defendant and their ability to meet their burden of proof in proving the charge beyond a reasonable doubt," she said.

In Norita's case, Manglona noted that the prosecution has agreed that the specific sentence of five years imprisonment, all suspended except for six months without parole, is the appropriate sentence for the defendant.

At the sentencing hearing, Norita acknowledged the wrongfulness of his actions and accepted responsibility. The defendant said he wanted to bring this case to a closure so that he could go on with his life.

Manglona said despite the plea agreement and the oral confirmation with the court of his understanding of what sentence he would receive under the plea bargain, Norita still asked the court for a more lenient sentence due to his family's needs.

Manglona said she explained to the defendant that when the court accepts the plea agreement, it will impose the terms provided for in the agreement.

"The court is mindful of the need to impose a sentence that would serve to deter defendant and any others who would be so inclined to commit this same offense," the judge said.

Only Terlaje is scheduled for trial in this case. The trial is set for March 9, 2009.

Sablan already pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office. Tarope pleaded guilty to violating the CUC Code. Faisao was found guilty after a bench trial for violating the CUC Code.

More challenges identified as agri summit ends

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Photo shows the Agricultural Summit's panelists from different agencies, from left, Soil Conservationist Jay Doronila of NCRS/EQIP, Dallas Baranger of APAHIS-USDA, Thomas Camacho Farm Service Agency-USDA, Ross Manglona of NMC-CREES, and Commonwealth Development Authority Executive Director Oscar Camacho.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first ever Agricultural Summit may have ended yesterday, but farmers and ranchers still face a lot of challenges, among them identifying a solid market base for local products.

The summit, held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort, also posed questions for the industry regarding their standing vis-à-vis the current economic crisis and the impending federalization of the islands' immigration this June.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, agricultural consultant for the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, said the high cost of electricity, gasoline, pesticide, shipping rates, as well as the lack of water, and even the anticipated effect of federalization, are hindering development of the agricultural sector.

Cabrera said it is expected that with the federalization of local immigration in June, the labor cost will rise because the sector will not have as much access to labor from the Philippines like before.

He said these are only some of the issues that contribute to the sector's problems and that is why the summit was held to find solutions to them.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vowed to support local farmers and ranchers by encouraging and facilitating the development of the industry.

"We want our farmers and ranchers to be more successful in our private sector. We want to be less reliant on imported produce, and we want to be a more self-sufficient community. We also want to capitalize on the military expansion in the region over the coming years," he said.

NMC-CREES is one of three agencies, now referred to as the Farmers Support Group, that organized the event and drew around 200 participants after two days of deliberations. The two others are the Saipan Municipal Council and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

"It was very successful as far as attendance is concerned. The comments from the stakeholders were overwhelming. There were a lot of issues raised and this is something that we need to carry on," Cabrera said.

Panelists from the federal and local government agencies, in particular the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth Development Authority, were bombarded with questions pertaining to funding and loans.

Participants from agricultural fairs on Tinian and Rota also joined via teleconference yesterday.

The biggest question that remained unanswered, however, was how these agencies could identify markets where local farmers can bring their produce, for instance the noni growers.

"There is more to be done. We have to really come up with something realistic to address their recommendations," Cabrera said. "Farming and ranching is a never ending thing. We need to produce crops and improve the livestock industry to help the local economy grow and help reduce dependency on imports."

William Torres, one of the advisers for the FSG, said the event was successful in that the participants were able to voice their concerns. "The key here is to identify where the market will be so that the producers would better understand and act accordingly," Torres said.

He said the deliberations was kind of pleading engagement because "it's really hard to target."

He said it is better to approximate the value of the products rather than focusing mainly on the adequate supplies, which he said could be done with consistency, high quality, and less pesticide to maintain the freshness of the food.

"We need to compete with the Asian and U.S. products," Torres said. "We are satisfied with the outcome of this summit but there should be a follow up."

The second agricultural summit will be held within the year.

Valentine's Day dinner concert at PIC

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Friends of the Arts is holding a dinner concert for lovers tomorrow, Feb. 14, at the Charley's Bar of the Pacific Islands Club.

Susan Fishman, one of the organizers, said the event would be a night of fine dining and romantic music featuring over 20 songs from 26 performers and accompaniments.

She assured that this would be a unique and special experience that cannot be found anywhere else.

"It would be a night of Broadway romance in music for you and that special person in your life," she said.

The singers are Aiza Mendoza, Andrea Stafford, Dowen Jocson, Ingrid Sanchez, Joan Liwanag, Kerby Uhl, Leila Staffler, Megan McCollum, Naomi Benjamin, Ronalyn Bautista, Roseanna Sablan, Victoria Lee Brown, Dave Bucher, Jacob Conner, Leo Goode, Paul Dujua, Roland Arii, Skylar Brown and Tommy Baik.

Providing the accompaniment are Atsuko Eck, Casey Conner, Collin Fruit, Dave Bucher, Helen Ann Bucher, Ruth Fruit, Ted Parker and Will Dewitt.

The show is produced by Chuck Sayon and Paul Dujua is the musical director.

Along with the musical entertainment, intimate and superb champagne and fine-cuisine Valentine's Day menu will be served at a cost of $75 for non-FOA members and $60 for members—with the chance to win a one-night stay at the PIC.

Fishman said the show will also have comic interlude.

Seating will be reserved in advance and will offer two-person and four-person tables.

"Lovers can spend a romantic evening at the cabaret and gourmet candle-lit dinner, Fishman said.

Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30pm and the program will begin at 7:30pm.

There will also be a repeat performance on Sunday, Feb. 15, that includes the Magellan buffet at a cost of $35 per person for non-FOA members and $30 for members and $20 for children.

Marshalls college regains US accreditation

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Radio New Zealand)—A United States education agency has removed sanctions against the College of the Marshall Islands, giving it full academic accreditation for the first time in seven years.

While the two-year Majuro college fared well in its review by the U.S. Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission, other two-year colleges in U.S.-affiliated islands did not.

The Northern Marianas College in Saipan remains on show cause, the harshest sanction imposed and the final step before termination of accreditation.

American Samoa Community College was placed on probation, while the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei had its follow up assessment rejected by the commission.

The College of the Marshall Islands was one of seven institutions that were removed from warning status and had their accreditation reaffirmed.

Since the college's former business manager was charged in 2002 with embezzling more than 600-thousand US dollars, the Majuro college has been under sanction by agency.

Business

Bankers vow to build trust with increased lending

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's top bankers came to account for themselves Wednesday to a wary public, displaying a blend of financial might and humility as they pledged to build public trust with greater lending and fewer perks.

"We're Americans first and bankers second," John Stumpf, president and chief executive of Wells Fargo & Co., told a House committee.

"As an industry, we clearly made mistakes," added John Mack, chairman and CEO of Morgan Stanley.

Eight chief executives sat at a witness table for more than six hours Wednesday assuring lawmakers that an infusion last fall of $165 billion in taxpayer money to their banks was good for consumers. The money was part of a $700 billion financial rescue approved by Congress in October.

Lending has increased, they told the House Financial Services Committee, and CEO bonuses have been eliminated.

And while some lawmakers said they hoped that by their testimony the bankers could gain some credibility, some of their inquisitors weren't convinced.

"America doesn't trust you anymore," declared Rep. Michael Capuano, D-N.J.

Added committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass: "There has to be a sense of the American people that you understand their anger."

To a man—and, yes, all eight CEOs are male—the executives said they would pay back the taxpayer money by 2012 and sooner if they could help it.

As they made that pledge, Senators on the other side of the Capitol were pressing Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner without success to reveal how much more money the federal government would have to inject into the financial system to improve lending and reverse the escalation of mortgage foreclosures. Geithner only conceded that further requests could be possible.

"So you have no clue," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Geithner, a day after he outlined an overhaul to the government bailout, continued to face questions about the lack of details in his plan and promised specifics "as quickly as we can."

The blunt treatment of the financial sector and its Obama administration overseer came as the House and Senate reached agreement on a $789 billion economic stimulus package that represented the other major component of President Barack Obama's response to the economic crisis.

The financial sector was also in law enforcement's cross hairs. FBI Deputy Director John Pistole told the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday that the FBI is conducting more than 500 investigations of corporate fraud amid the financial meltdown.

Official: Wife pulled $15M before Madoff's arrest

BOSTON (AP)—The wife of disgraced money manager Bernard Madoff withdrew more than $15 million from a firm co-owned by her husband—including $10 million on the day their children turned her husband over to authorities for overseeing an alleged $50 billion Ponzi scheme, the top securities regulator in Massachusetts said Wednesday.

Secretary of State William Galvin said Ruth Madoff, 67, withdrew $5.5 million on Nov. 25 and $10 million on Dec. 10—the day before Bernard Madoff was arrested—from Cohmad Securities Corp., a New York firm co-owned by her husband.

The secretary cited wire transfer records produced by Cohmad as proof of the withdrawals. They came as Madoffs' scheme was unraveling as investors filed $7 billion worth of redemption requests.

They also appeared to follow what authorities consider a disturbing trend on the part of the Madoffs to hide money that could be used to reimburse burned investors.

Prosecutors have already said investigators found 100 signed checks worth $173 million that Madoff was ready to send out to his closest family and friends at the time of his arrest in December. Two weeks later, during the Christmas holidays, Madoff sent more than $1 million in jewelry and heirlooms to family and friends.

"We're not accusing her of anything wrong," Galvin spokesman Brian McNiff said of Ruth Madoff. "It's just one of the things that came out in the response, such as it was, from Cohmad" to a subpoena from Massachusetts officials. "Now, what someone in New York or the feds may think of it may be entirely different."

A telephone number listed to Ruth Madoff in Palm Beach, Fla., rang busy and a number in New York had been disconnected. A Cohmad spokeswoman in New York said the company had no comment. Ira Sorkin, a lawyer for Bernard Madoff, said he had no comment on the withdrawals.

In New York, meanwhile, the government and lawyers for Madoff agreed to a 30-day delay in the Wednesday deadline for obtaining a grand jury indictment against the money manager.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks down amid pessimism over US plans

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets fell Thursday, with Japan's benchmark losing almost 3 percent, amid doubts that U.S. plans costing trillions of dollars will soon restore the health of the world's largest economy. Investors seemed more wary than relieved after U.S. lawmakers finally agreed overnight to a $790 billion stimulus bill designed to pull the economy out of recession by creating jobs through spending and tax cuts. President Barack Obama could sign the measure within days. The news came a day after the Obama administration's newly revised program to rescue the financial sector with some $2 trillion in funding met with widespread skepticism. Investors criticized the plan for what they said was a lack of specifics. With economies in the U.S. and elsewhere still showing signs of stress, investors are increasingly pessimistic about the ability of governments to turn around the global economy anytime soon.

Oil prices tumble below $36 on bulging inventories

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Oil prices plummeted below $36 Wednesday on more evidence that U.S. storage facilities are bulging with unused crude. Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell $1.61 to settle at $35.94 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil closed under $40 Monday for the first time in several weeks, and has closed lower every day since. A weekly report from the Energy Information Administration showed that crude inventories jumped by 4.7 million barrels for the week ended Feb. 6. That easily surpassed the expectations of analysts surveyed by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos., who expected a boost of 3.4 million barrels. Including last week's build up, crude inventories have increased by more than 30 million barrels in the past five weeks.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-046

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INSENTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 164 HECTARES (405 ACRES) OF THE CAROLINAS HEIGHTS REGION OF TINIAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESENTATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 4, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER **AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118** AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-047

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:30 P.M.

"DOCUMENTATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, ON CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, AND PREPARATION OF ITS NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 4, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER **AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118** AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 23 (San Vicente), 24 (San Antonio), and 26 (As Lito).

A public hearing will be held:
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is planning to contract out the operation and maintenance of its two 1.8 mega watts main generators and controls at the Saipan International Airport.

The CPA is inviting all firms with proven work history in operations and maintenance of generators and controls to a meeting at the Generator Building at the Saipan International Airport on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at which time and place, a familiarity of the generators and controls will be conducted. Also, the general intent of what CPA wants in terms of operation and maintenance of the generators and controls will be discussed.

A scope of work will be developed from this meeting and will be the basis for a request for proposal for an operation and maintenance contract.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director February 2, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (January 14, 2009)

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS
NONE.

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Hiring of Comptroller
2. Update of Baggage Handling System
3. Rota Terminal and Transfer

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
February 12, 2009

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

2 big satellites collide 500 miles over Siberia

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Two big communications satellites collided in the first-ever crash of its kind in orbit, shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds and posing a slight risk to the international space station. NASA said it will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the crash, which occurred nearly 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday. "We knew this was going to happen eventually," said Mark Matney, an orbital debris scientist at Johnson Space Center in Houston. NASA believes any risk to the space station and its three astronauts is low. It orbits about 270 miles below the collision course. There also should be no danger to the space shuttle set to launch with seven astronauts on Feb. 22, officials said, but that will be re-evaluated in the coming days.

Blagojevich dishes dirt on those who ousted him

CHICAGO (AP)—Ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich is lashing out at the Illinois lawmakers who removed him from office, calling them drunkards and adulterers who don't know how to do their jobs. Blagojevich's former colleagues and close associates are laughing off the latest comments as those of a desperate man—but he could make people nervous if he starts naming names as federal prosecutors prepare to indict him on corruption charges.

"At some point he's going to realize how much trouble he's in and the way the federal sentencing works now, the best way to reduce your own sentence is to cooperate against someone else," said Chicago defense attorney John Beal. Blagojevich, impeached and ousted last month in the wake of federal corruption charges against him, seems open to spilling in a book at least some of what he saw during his two terms as a Democrat in the state's highest office.

Body dragged nearly 20 miles on NYC highways

NEW YORK (AP)—A van traveled for nearly an hour over busy New York City roads before its driver discovered the horrific cargo it had dragged almost 20 miles: the partially scraped-away body of a man who was plowed over by an SUV just before he got caught under the van. Police said the gruesome episode was accidental and that they have no plans to charge the drivers at this time. But that did not diminish the shock of seeing a dead man hooked under a van that had just traversed some of the busiest roads in the city. Police said the driver, Manuel Lituma Sanchez, had no idea he hit the victim until the end of his trip, when a bystander told him something was dragging under his van.

Investigators were working to identify the body, which was found largely intact but horribly battered. The man's heels were shorn off. His clothes and several layers of skin on his legs and buttocks were worn off. The back of his head was worn through to the scalp. A business card, Western Union receipt and a broken iPhone were found in the man's pockets, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said.

Congress, White House agree on $790B stimulus bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Moving with lightning speed, the Democratic-controlled Congress and White House agreed Wednesday on a compromise $790 billion economic stimulus bill designed to create millions of jobs in a nation reeling from recession. President Barack Obama could sign the measure within days.

"More than one-third of this bill is dedicated to providing tax relief for middle-class families, cutting taxes for 95 percent of American workers," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at a Capitol news conference where he was joined by moderates from both parties whose support is essential for the legislation's final passage.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Reid's partner in negotiations over more than 24 intense hours, initially withheld her approval in a lingering disagreement over federal funding for school construction. "We had to make sure the investment in education" was in the bill, she said.

Obama, who has campaigned energetically for the legislation, welcomed the agreement in a written statement that said it would "save or create more than 3.5 million jobs and get our economy back on track."

The emerging legislation is at the core of Obama's economic recovery program.

The president's signature tax cut was preserved—a break for millions of lower- and middle-income taxpayers of $400 per individual and $800 per couple. That's less than the $500 and $1,000 the White House originally sought, although officials said it would mean an estimated $13 per week extra per paycheck.

AP

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, center, joins other lawmakers in announcing agreement on the $789 billion economic stimulus measure designed to create millions of jobs and help take the nation out of recession, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009.

Wage-earners who don't earn enough to pay income taxes would get a reduction in the Social Security and Medicare taxes they pay.

The bill also includes help for victims of the recession in the form of expanded unemployment benefits, food stamps, health coverage and more, as well as billions for states that face the prospect of making deep cuts in school aid and other programs.

Another provision will mean a one-time payment of $250 for millions of beneficiaries who receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and veterans pensions and disability, according to officials. They added that the measure will include $46 billion for transportation projects such as highway, bridge and mass transit construction.

The president also won money for two other administration priorities—information technology in health care, and "green jobs" to make buildings more energy-efficient and reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

The bill "will be the beginning of the turnaround for the American economy," predicted Sen. Joe Lieberman, the independent from Connecticut.

Republicans couldn't have disagreed more.

Rescuers search for more victims of Okla. twisters

LONE GROVE, Okla. (AP)—Rescuers sorted through bricks and shattered plywood Wednesday in search of more victims of a deadly tornado that blasted through a small Oklahoma town where many people in a trailer park had nowhere to escape the howling winds.

The death toll rose to nine Wednesday when a man who was injured and transferred to a Dallas hospital died, said Carter County Sheriff Ken Grace. Other victims were killed by flying debris and one man died when a pickup truck fell on him.

There were also miraculous tales of survival: People taking shelter in a closet pulled a woman to safety after the tornado blew part of the roof off and threatened to carry her away. Another woman was found injured but alive beneath an overturned mobile home.

Residents of Lone Grove, a town of 4,600 about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City, awoke Wednesday to find much of their community in ruins.

Shirley Mose was not at home when the tornado struck, but she returned to find the house destroyed and her pickup truck wrecked.

"I had a little Chihuahua that stayed in there," Mose said. "We found her bed, but not her. I guess she's gone."

The Lone Grove twister had winds estimated at 170 mph and remained on the ground for more than an hour, the National Weather Service said in its preliminary assessment.

It was among a cluster of unusual February tornados that touched down Tuesday in Oklahoma. A half-dozen homes and several businesses were also damaged in Oklahoma City and suburban Edmond, but no serious injuries were reported there.

Later Wednesday, high winds toppled trees and utility poles and knocked out power to nearly 205,000 customers in Ohio. And a wind gust of more than 90 mph blew through Allegheny County Airport, part of a strong line of storms in the Pittsburgh area that left more than 47,000 without electricity.

US taxpayers may have to cover octuplet mom's costs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A big share of the financial burden of raising Nadya Suleman's 14 children could fall on the shoulders of California's taxpayers, compounding the public furor in a state already billions of dollars in the red.

Even before the 33-year-old single, unemployed mother gave birth to octuplets last month, she had been caring for her six other children with the help of $490 a month in food stamps, plus Social Security disability payments for three of the youngsters. The public aid will almost certainly be increased with the new additions to her family.

Also, the hospital where the octuplets are expected to spend seven to 12 weeks has requested reimbursement from Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, for care of the premature babies, according to the Los Angeles Times. The cost has not been disclosed.

Word of the public assistance has stoked the furor over Suleman's decision to have so many children by having embryos implanted in her womb.

"It appears that, in the case of the Suleman family, raising 14 children takes not simply a village but the combined resources of the county, state and federal governments," Los Angeles Times columnist Tim Rutten wrote in Wednesday's paper. He called Suleman's story "grotesque."

On the Internet, bloggers rained insults on Suleman, calling her an "idiot," criticizing her decision to have more children when she couldn't afford the ones she had, and suggesting she be sterilized.

"It's my opinion that a woman's right to reproduce should be limited to a number which the parents can pay for," Charles Murray wrote in a letter to the Los Angeles Daily News. "Why should my wife and I, as taxpayers, pay child support for 14 Suleman kids?"

Study: Paying smokers to quit boosts success rate

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Dangling enough dollars in front of smokers who want to quit helps many more succeed, an experiment with hundreds of General Electric Co. workers indicates. Among those paid up to $750 to quit and stay off cigarettes, 15 percent were still tobacco-free about a year later. That may not sound like much, but it's three times the success rate of a comparison group that got no such bonuses.

GE was so impressed it plans to offer an incentive program nationwide next year, aiming to save some of the company's estimated $50 million annually in extra health and other costs for smoking employees.

"This kind of reward system provides them with direct, positive feedback in the present," not just delayed, intangible health benefits, said Dr. Kevin Volpp, the lead researcher of the study.

Volpp, who oversees the health incentives center at the University of Pennsylvania, called the study the largest ever of employer incentives to stop smoking. Several past studies failed to find higher quit rates linked to financial bonuses, but he said those included too few people or the financial incentives were too tiny, some as low as $10.

The $750 was "a good incentive," said Dan Anzalone, a study participant who quit smoking cold turkey three years ago next month—after a 35-year habit.

"I was getting rewarded for something that I should be doing anyway," said Anzalone, 54. "You'd be surprised at what that little incentive does."

A logistics specialist at a GE plant in Schenectady, N.Y., Anzalone tried quitting with antidepressants about seven years ago but couldn't. He tried quitting on New Year's Day most years, but generally only lasted a couple days.

Asia

Police question 2 about wildfires

YEA, Australia (AP)—Australia said Thursday it was fast-tracking a nationwide fire alert system after thousands of people were caught off-guard by the country's deadliest wildfires, some of them blamed on arsonists. Police said they were questioning two people.

Police declined to say whether the two people had been arrested or even detained, and released a statement that described them as "assisting police with their inquiries." More than 180 people died Saturday in the fires, and the toll was expect to rise further. Detectives responding to a tip found the men near Yea, which is about 12 miles (20 kilometers) north of Marysville, a town utterly wrecked by an inferno Saturday and where officials say up to 100 people were killed.

Officials blame the dramatically higher death toll than previous wildfires on the historically bad conditions and on the number of people who appeared to have waited until they saw the fast moving blazes coming before trying to flee. Many bodies have been found in burned-out cars or on the roadside.

Attorney General Robert McClelland said a plan for a telephone fire alert system had been before the government since 2004, but that state governments had yet to endorse it. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's government had "driven this issue hard" since it was elected in 2007, he said.

"Clearly a warning system would be useful," McClelland told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The Australian newspaper reported Thursday that privacy laws and bickering between states over funding had derailed plans to have such a system installed before the weekend blazes in Victoria state.

North Korea appears to be readying missile test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea appears to be gearing up for another long-range missile test, the latest in a series of provocative acts seemingly aimed at stoking tensions with South Korea and winning the attention of the new U.S. president.

In recent weeks, Pyongyang has declared it will scrap peace agreements with Seoul and warned of war on the Korean peninsula. Reports that it could be preparing to test a missile capable of reaching the western United States have added to the anxiety.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Wednesday that a vehicle carrying radar equipment was seen moving to a launch site on the North's eastern coast from a munitions factory near Pyongyang.

"It can be analyzed that the North is proceeding with a missile launch preparation in stages," Yonhap quoted a South Korean government official it did not name as saying.

South Korean and Japanese media said last week that intelligence agents had spotted a train carrying a long, cylinder-shaped object—believed to be a long-range missile—to the launch site at Musudan-ni.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has played down reports of possible North Korean missile launch preparations, noting Tuesday that Pyongyang's last such test in 2006 was a failure and that the U.S. could shoot down a North Korean missile "should we deem it necessary."

Sri Lanka plans to house war refugees for 3 years

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka is preparing to house 200,000 civil war refugees at five huge "welfare villages"—complete with post offices, banks and libraries—where it expects them to stay for up to three years, according to a government plan.

The draft plan, which the government has circulated among international aid groups and donors in recent days, surfaced as tens of thousands of civilians fled the northern battlefield where Tamil Tiger rebels and government forces have been waging heavy battles.

The government's preparations appear to lend support to Red Cross estimates last month that 250,000 civilians were trapped in the war zone. The government says the number is less than half that, giving a much less dire assessment of the potential humanitarian crisis.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia hit by powerful earthquake

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck off eastern Indonesia early Thursday, briefly triggering fears of a tsunami. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 7.0-magnitude quake struck at 1:34 a.m. (1734 Wednesday GMT, 2:34 p.m. Wednesday EST) about 195 miles (315 kilometers) from Manado, the northernmost city on Sulawesi island. It was centered 21 miles (35 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor, the agency said. Five aftershocks measuring more than magnitude 5 followed, the USGS said on its Web site. The Indonesian Agency for Meteorology and Geophysics said in mobile phone text messages sent to reporters that the quake had the power to trigger a tsunami, but the warning was lifted about an hour later.

20 dead in Afghan assaults; Pakistan group blamed

KABUL (AP)—Taliban militants killed 20 people in a coordinated attack on three government buildings in Kabul Wednesday, launching the assault after sending text messages to the leader of their terror cell in Pakistan, the head of Afghan intelligence said. The three-pronged attack on government ministries struck the heart of the heavily fortified capital on the eve of a visit by Richard Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's special envoy to the region. It underscored the reach of the Taliban outside their mountainous strongholds and the challenges Obama faces as he increases America's focus—and troop levels—in Afghanistan. The morning assault sent workers scrambling for safety as security forces spread out in the streets and searched rooftops for attackers, reinforcing the perception that security in Afghanistan is rapidly deteriorating. Security analysts tracking daily attacks say numbers have spiked this year, and militants now control wide swaths of Afghan countryside.

Gordon T. Taitingfong
P.O. Box 7276 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone nO. 483-3868

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GORDON T. TAITINGFONG AS GUARDIAN OF ESTATE OF GLEN G. PINAULA TAITINGFONG, GIOVONNI PINAULA TAITINGFONG and GODDHY PINAULA TAITINGFONG Minor Children, by. GORDON T. TAITINGFONG, Petitioner.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0024 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Gordon T. Taitingfong, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 23rd day of February, 2009 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Gordon T. Taitingfong
P.O. Box 7276 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone nO. 483-3868

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF TANYA ANN TAITINGFONG and ATANACIO TAITINGFONG JR., Minor Children, by. GORDON T. TAITINGFONG, Petitioner.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0062 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Gordon T. Taitingfong, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 23rd day of February, 2009 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Janet P. Catalan
PMB 1483 Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 235-8377

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANET P. CATALAN, Petitioner, vs. DANNY CATALAN, Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0323 SUMMONS

TO: Danny Catalan

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Janet P. Catalan whose address is PMB 192 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Jeffrey P. Cabrera
P.O. Box 501116
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 664-9059

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JEFFREY P. CABRERA, Petitioner, vs. XIAQIN ZHOU CABRERA, Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0443 SUMMONS

TO: Xiaqin Zhou Cabrera

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Jeffrey P. Cabrera whose address is P.O. Box 501116, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFTON, Plaintiff, -v- SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043 FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

1. **Lot No 012 B08**, situated in Calabera, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.
2. **Tract 22609 (formerly H-65)**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2165/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
3. **Tract 22610 (formerly H-65 A)**, Situated in Saipan, Northern Marian Islands, containing an area of 13,558 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2164/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
4. **Lot E.A. 579**, situated in Laulau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,056 square meters, more or less, being situated in Land Square Seven, Section R, Units u and v, and Land Square Ten, Section 1, Units a and b, as shown on APWO Drawing No. 11411 and 11414 on file with the Clerk of Courts (being all that property conveyed by that Grant of Public Domain from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to Joaquin I. Pangelinan executed April 18, 1956 and filed April 25, 1956 at the Clerk of Courts).
5. **Tract/Lot No. H-378**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 27,537 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
6. **Tract/Lot No H-378 "A"**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,585 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
7. **Lot 001 C 10**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,999 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 01, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 20, 1980, as Document No. 9811.
8. **Lot 001 C 16 (part of original Lot 001 C 06)**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 14,579 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 04, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on June 13, 1986, as Document No. 86-1187.
9. **Lot 012 J 13, Parcel "A"**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, consisting of the northern portion of Lot 012 J 13, and containing an area of 2,319 square meters, more or less.

Date, time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 20th day of January, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

World

Israeli rivals share tough line on Hamas and Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's new coalition government—whether led by hard-line Benjamin Netanyahu or his moderate rival Tzipi Livni—is likely to take a tough line on two burning issues: Hamas and Iran.

As the two began courting potential coalition partners Wednesday, two scenarios took shape: a narrow alliance of hawks who would stall peacemaking with the Palestinians, or a broad power-sharing government that would give Israel a more moderate face and greater international support.

With only a few thousand votes by soldiers still to be counted, Livni's Kadima Party had one more seat in parliament than Netanyahu's Likud. But Netanyahu's natural allies on the right have a clear majority of 65 in the 120-seat parliament, giving him the edge in forming a coalition.

President Shimon Peres will consult all 12 parties in the new parliament next week before choosing either Netanyahu or Livni to try to form a government—a process likely to take weeks if not months.

The two offer vastly different approaches when it comes to peacemaking with the Palestinians: Livni supports giving up territory to make room for a Palestinian state, while Netanyahu has said he considers current U.S.-backed Mideast peace talks a waste of time.

However, they both take a hard line when it comes to the Islamic militants of Hamas, who overran the Gaza Strip in 2007, and the potential threat of Iran's nuclear program.

AP

Israel's Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu attends a faction meeting at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Feb.11, 2009.

Israeli election could boost Hamas truce talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—For Hamas, the goal is opening Gaza's borders to tons of blankets, medicine and other humanitarian aid piled up in ports, and freeing hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli jails.

For Israel, it's stopping the smuggling of arms into Gaza and bringing home a soldier held captive by Hamas-linked militants since 2006.

With outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert suddenly freed of political constraints as rival parties wrangle over how to share power following Tuesday's elections, the next several weeks may offer a unique opportunity for Israel and Hamas to strike a deal—though it's unclear whether Olmert's successor would honor it.

John Ging, the top U.N. official in Gaza, said he was not concerned about who becomes prime minister, only about reopening the border crossings.

"We just hope that whichever government is elected changes its policy to focus on the plight of the people in Gaza," he said. "Thousands of tons of humanitarian aid, like blankets, medicine and aid are waiting in Ashdod (Israel), Egypt and Jordan. ... The aid isn't getting in because there is only one crossing open, so it's like the eye of a needle."

Senior defense officials said Olmert's dwindling time as prime minister has ironically improved conditions for working out an agreement that would open the borders and end the still simmering warfare.

WORLD BRIEFS

British group heads to Guantanamo to free resident

LONDON (AP)—A British court met Wednesday to reconsider a case regarding a British resident being held in Guantanamo—a lawsuit that stands to embarrass the American and British governments over torture allegations. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, meanwhile, announced that a doctor and other British officials would visit Binyam Mohamed at the US prison camp on Cuba's eastern tip. Mohamed has been on a hunger strike for more than a month and is being force-fed. He launched the strike to protest his continued detention. Charges against him were dropped last year. "The visit will help us make preparations for his return," said Miliband, after talks with Mohamed's military lawyer, Air Force Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley, who appealed to Britain to pressure President Barack Obama's administration for Mohamed's release.

Mugabe rival takes oath as Zimbabwe prime minister

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—President Robert Mugabe swore in his longtime rival as prime minister Wednesday, cracking his nearly three-decade stranglehold on power and conceding they must work together to rescue Zimbabwe from economic and humanitarian disaster. The image of Mugabe administering the oath of office to Morgan Tsvangirai was extraordinary given the history of state-sponsored violence against opponents. The opposition leader has been beaten and was once nearly thrown from a 10th floor window by suspected government thugs. Tsvangirai acknowledged in a speech after the ceremony that many Zimbabweans don't think the partnership will work, but he said it is the "only viable arrangement." He promised to begin repairing the economy and healing the country's other wounds.

Egypt unveils ancient mummy, part of new discovery

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP)—Illuminated only by torches and camera lights, Egyptian laborers used crowbars and picks Wednesday to lift the lid off a 2,600-year-old limestone sarcophagus, exposing—for the first time since it was sealed in antiquity—a perfectly preserved mummy. The mummy, wrapped in dark-stained canvas, is part of Egypt's latest archaeological discovery of a burial chamber 36 feet below ground at the ancient necropolis of Saqqara. The find, made three weeks ago, was publicly announced Monday and shown to reporters for the first time Wednesday. Egypt's archaeology chief Zahi Hawass has dubbed it a "storeroom for mummies," because it houses eight wooden and limestone sarcophagi as well as at least two dozen mummies.

Off The Wall

Deputies: Ohio teacher cut class for prostitution

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio (AP)—A fourth-grade teacher had a side job as a prostitute, and even skipped class after using a school computer to arrange an afternoon tryst at a motel, authorities said Wednesday.

Amber Carter, 35, left school early on Tuesday—taking half a sick day—and was arrested in a motel parking lot in Bellefontaine, where authorities had set up a sting operation.

An anonymous e-mail was sent to the Logan County Sheriff's Department on Feb. 4 saying a local woman was posting cash-for-sex ads on the popular Web site Craigslist, Lt. Rob Bibart said.

Detectives found the ad and arranged Tuesday's meeting with Carter, he said.

"It was done very subtly. We pulled up, I identified myself," he said. "I put her in an unmarked car and off we went."

Detectives were uncertain how long Carter had been advertising for sex, Bibart said.

Bellefontaine, a small city of 13,000, is about 50 miles northwest of Columbus.

Carter was placed on administrative leave, said Bellefontaine City Schools Superintendent Larry Anderson. She has worked for the district for 13 years, starting as a kindergarten teacher.

"It's really a shock," Anderson said. "She's never been involved with any disciplinary issues or anything else. She's done a very good job."

AP

This photo, supplied by the Logan County Sheriff's Office, shows Amber Carter, 35. Police say the Ohio fourth grade teacher, who is being charged with misdemeanor prostitution, skipped class after using a school computer to arrange an afternoon tryst at a motel and was arrested Tuesday, Feb.10, 2009, in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Philly transit agency sells pass with photo of NYC

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—You might feel a little lost if you've bought a discount pass sold by Philadelphia's primary mass transit agency—it features a picture of New York City. The pass is marked with the logo for Philly Beer Week, a festival celebrating local breweries and taverns. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority is selling the pass to discourage people from driving from one event to another during the festival. A spokeswoman for the agency, Jerri Williams, says transit officials liked the look of the pass but didn't realize the stock photo was of the wrong city. New passes are being printed.

Cops arrest man who sought help removing handcuffs

BARNSTABLE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man who walked into a police station and asked for help removing a pair of handcuffs dangling from one wrist ended up wearing another pair instead. Barnstable, Mass., police Sgt. Sean Sweeney said 21-year-old Allahmanamjad (el-ah-MAN'-a-jahd) Barbel showed up Tuesday claiming he couldn't get off the cuffs his sister slipped on him at a child's birthday party. Police ran Barbel's name through the state warrant system and discovered he had outstanding warrants on charges of driving with a suspended license, leaving the scene of an accident, threatening to commit a crime and making annoying phone calls. Sweeney said police removed the cuffs—then slipped on a new pair to arrest him.

Woman who sang about fire charged with 7 arsons

DREXEL HILL, Pa. (AP)—Police in a Philadelphia suburb say a 19-year-old woman accused of arson was caught on a surveillance camera singing, "The fire department is going to be mad at me." Police say Amanda Gessner touched off 7 blazes in trash and brush between 3 a.m. and 5:45 a.m. Tuesday within blocks of where she lives in Upper Darby Township. Officials say Gessner was witnessed earlier in the evening at a local convenience store singing the ditty about the fire department. Her tune was caught on the store's surveillance camera. One fire damaged a home where a family of four was sleeping. They escaped without injury.

Cat rescued from 6-story highway pillar in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—A lift had to be used to rescue a cat from atop a 6-story concrete support pillar for a Houston elevated freeway. The striped gray kitty could be heard meowing Wednesday after the Houston SPCA retrieved the cat and put the animal in a transport cage. SPCA investigator Charles Jantzen said it appears the cat fell through an expansion joint on the freeway and landed on the pillar. Rescuers aren't sure how long the kitty was stranded. KHOU-TV video shows Jantzen coaxing, then gently grabbing the kitty. Jantzen says the dehydrated cat would be treated by the SPCA.

Nude biker leads trooper on chase in bad weather

SEARCY, Ark. (AP)—A naked man on a motorcycle who crashed with an Arkansas state trooper's cruiser on a night when it was sleeting faces misdemeanor charges. A police report said a 35-year-old man kept riding when a trooper tried to pull him over during the Jan. 26 incident. The man stopped abruptly several times in the street and then sped up quickly, until the trooper bumped him on one of the stops. The report didn't indicate any injuries but both vehicles were damaged. A witness quoted in the police report said the man was "naked as a jaybird." Searcy police cited the man for indecent exposure, fleeing and not having a vehicle license.

Fake Foreigner drummer allegedly steals Corvette

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Authorities said a transient man convinced a woman that he was the drummer for the rock band Foreigner, stole her Corvette and then crashed it. Police said a 48-year-old man befriended the woman at a Tampa hotel, claiming to be Cory James, the drummer for Foreigner. The band has had more than a half dozen drummers over the years, none of whom were named Cory James. The two met up later at the Clearwater Hilton, where police said the man conned the valet into giving him the woman's 2002 Chevrolet Corvette without her knowledge or consent. He crashed a short time later and ran off, and police say they used a dog to track him down.

Science & Technology

Free music download service signs last major label

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Qtrax, an Internet company that promises the first free music download service paid for by advertisements, said Wednesday it had signed up the last of the four major recording companies and plans to relaunch next month.

The privately held New York firm's premature launch last year annoyed the major record labels with whom it hadn't yet signed licensing contracts.

With the signing of Warner Music Group Corp., Qtrax now has added all the major labels and their publishing units, following deals with Universal Music Group in May, EMI Group Ltd. in June, and Sony Music Entertainment in December.

"We had a somewhat embarrassing launch," said Qtrax Chief Executive Allan Klepfisz. "Now, we clearly do want to make a lot of noise."

Songs on the service, which can be downloaded to a personal computer and then transferred to a portable device, come with digital rights management software, which prevents copying.

A vibrating hand for the pianist, please

ATLANTA (AP)—Talk about a helping hand.

Georgia Tech researchers are trying to reinvent how students learn to play the piano by developing a glove that vibrates to cue a budding musician which finger needs to be played at a given moment. The goal is to fuse music with muscle memory to teach pianists their craft.

"You can literally feel the notes," said Kevin Huang, the Georgia Tech graduate student who came up with the idea.

His early design is basically a golf glove powered by a battery that's hooked into five vibrating motors. The glove has a wireless link to a PC, and sends a tiny jolt through the motors to prompt each suggested tap of a piano key.

The glove's software links to only a handful of songs now, but developers say it can be synchronized with iPods or other music players. That means a student wouldn't have to be sitting at a piano to begin building the muscle memory of how songs are played.

Huang and his professors were encouraged by a pilot study that showed it helped some users learn basic songs quicker.

Inventors Hall honors chip technology

CLEVELAND (AP)—A researcher who pioneered the first liquid crystal displays eventually used in computer screens and televisions is among 15 new members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

George Heilmeier, 73, worked on the first liquid crystal displays at RCA Laboratories in Princeton, N.J.

A liquid crystal display, or LCD, is a thin, flat display device that uses a small amount of electric power, making it suitable for use in battery-powered electronic devices. The LCD is one of the reasons laptop computers have been so successful.

"We had a vision that liquid crystal displays would revolutionize the entertainment business," Heilmeier said about the concept developed in the 1960s. "We thought back then that eventually it would lead to flat panel TVs, but integrated circuit technology hadn't made enough progress then."

All of the new inductees, to be announced Wednesday in Washington, D.C., are connected in some way to products based on the development 50 years ago of electronic circuits built on small silicon wafers, leading to many of the things modern society depends on daily, such laptop computers, cell phones, automated banking and theater projectors.

AP

This undated photo provided by the National Inventors Hall of Fame shows George Heilmeier, one of the group's 2009 inductees. Heilmeier pioneered the first liquid crystal displays at RCA Laboratories and later served as director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

This year's ceremony is planned for May 2 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif., in Silicon Valley about 35 miles south of San Francisco.

The Akron-based Inventors Hall was founded in Washington by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations. It has inducted members since 1973 and will have honored 404 inventors with its new class, which includes 10 living and five deceased inventors.

Larry Hornbeck, 66, is being inducted for his work on a digital micromirror device, or DMD, which is an array of extremely small mirrors linked to a silicon chip. The technology works by directing light pulses on the mirrors through a lens for a range of applications from inkjet printer heads to digital movie projectors.

Hornbeck, who still works for Texas Instruments Inc. in Plano, Texas, said projection technology might soon be part of cell phones.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-008

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Shipper / Receiver to coordinate the receiving, shipment / freight handling of instructional materials, supplies and other needs from US mainland, Hawaii and territories vendors for hte CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-008" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-008, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the following:

One (1) Portable Pavement Striping Machine to the Tinian International Airport:

The equipment should include at a minimum:

1. **FRAME** Electric Welded, reinforced, heavy duty ALL STEEL tubular construction.
2. **WHEELS** Front – 3.00x5; Rear – 4.00x8; pneumatic tires; 5/8 and 1" ball and roller bearings.
3. **MATERIAL CONTAINER** Electrically welded 17 gallon or more, 150 psi steel tank, 10" ASME lid assembly. May also be stainless steel.
4. **POWER** Air cooled engine developing 12 HP or more. Must maintain constant traction up hill and down. Variable speed throttle provided. Electric starter, 15 amp alternator and 12 volt battery optional.
5. **COMPRESSOR** Twin cylinder non-pulsating, 18.5 CFR, 50% air reserve, with unloader. Force feed lubrication to all bearings.
6. **AGITATION** Paddle type.
7. **TRACTION** Must be air-circulated, with new type drive rolls or positive drive.
8. **SPRAY GUNS** Automatic, diaphragm operated, adjustable volume high speed types, square beginnings and endings, uniform application and perfect cross distribution, guns mounted on hinged side delivery on left side unless otherwise specified.
9. **LINE WIDTH** Variable from 3" to 18" but regularly set for two 4" lines, 4" apart unless otherwise specified.
10. **GUIDE PLATES** Air-curtains using exhaust gas to maintain keen-edged line.
11. **CONTROLS** Each gun controlled by separate control valve plus master control valve controls for both guns simultaneously. Each gun is separately regulated by all-brass solvent-resisting regulators.
12. **GUIDE** Adjustable, telescopic guide arm, suitable for chalk line or retracing with a 50" telescoping guide.
13. **CLEANER EQUIPMENT** ½ gallon automatic pressure cleaner mechanism with atomizing head. Flushes fluid lines and cleans spray head assembly of guns.
14. **BRAKE** Manual with easy reach of operator's right hand to keep machine under constant control.
15 **AIR HOSE** Twenty foot (20') air hose for stencil work.
16. **TRAILER** Sturdy riding trailer for operator with platform of no less than 12" x 24", mounted on two 3.00x5 pneumatic tired ball bearing wheels with a track of 32", with standard foot brake.
17. **REQUIRED OPTIONAL ITEMS** Intermittent skip line mechanism, paddle agitator, belt guard, transport trailer, 4" or 6" twin bead dispensers, hand gun assemblies, complete with hoses, right hand edge lining attachment, rotatable side delivery for curb painting, positive chain and sprocket drive with differential, air actuated clutch and hydraulic disc brakes, 18" airport side delivery, stainless steel tank and plumbing, electrical start engine and double tank for two color striping.
18. **DELIVERY** MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2009

Life & Style

Will Smith tops Forbes.com's bankable stars list

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Smith was voted the most bankable star in Hollywood in a survey of industry professionals by Forbes.com.

The financial magazine's Web site gives the actor a score of 10 out of 10 for his bankability in its first "star currency" list, compiled by surveying more than 150 industry professionals.

Following Smith on the list: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio, who all tied for second with a score of 9.89. Tom Hanks, George Clooney, Denzel Washington, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson rounded out the top 10.

In this Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, actor Will Smith arrives for the premiere of "Seven Pounds" in London. AP

Smith's superior box-office clout has been long established. He's known for "owning" the July Fourth weekend box office with films such as "Independence Day" and "Men in Black," and has had few flops.

The 40-year-old actor recently topped the annual poll by Quigley Publishing Co., which has surveyed movie exhibitors since 1932 on which stars generate the most box-office revenue.

The Forbes survey, which acknowledged that it was "subjective," also took into account a star's ability to attract financing for a project. The list was released Tuesday.

Smith's latest film, "Seven Pounds," received terrible reviews, but still earned $70 million at the domestic box office. His summer superhero blockbuster "Hancock" grossed $228 million.

Obama praises Lincoln's legacy at Ford's Theatre

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama praised Abraham Lincoln for his conviction that a divided nation could be made whole at a gala Wednesday night celebrating the $25 million renovation of Ford's Theatre.

The president and first lady Michelle Obama joined a crowd of Hollywood stars and Washington heavy-hitters for the celebration on the eve of Lincoln's 200th birthday. The theater where Lincoln was assassinated is reopening after an 18-month facelift that included new, more comfortable seats, a modern lobby and new dressing rooms.

Calling the theater "hallowed space" where Lincoln's legacy thrives, Obama praised him for restoring a sense of unity to the country.

"For despite all that divided us—North and South, black and white—he had an unyielding belief that we were, at heart, one nation, and one people," Obama said. "And because of Abraham Lincoln, and all who've carried on his work in the generations since, that is what we remain today."

The Obamas entered the theater to the tune of "Hail to the Chief" and the enthusiastic clapping of audience members who stood and turned to watch the first couple make their way down the aisle. Violinist Joshua Bell opened the show, playing a traditional spiritual on a violin that was last played at Ford's Theatre the night Lincoln was shot in 1865. The gala also included scenes from a play about Lincoln's life, along with other spoken tributes and musical performances.

Before the event, guests ranging from Cabinet members to movie producers strode down a red carpet in sharply cut tuxedos and colorful gowns. Talk included prime-time television plotlines and opinions of the economic stimulus package being hammered out in Congress.

Many were inspired by Obama.

"I still get a tear in my eye every time I see him on television," said Kelsey Grammer, though he added that he didn't always agree with Obama's politics. Grammer later took the stage to speak of Lincoln's love of Shakespeare.

Sidney Poitier and "Star Wars" director George Lucas were both honored with the Lincoln Medal.

AP

President Barack Obama, right, shares a laugh with television news anchor Katie Couric, center, and an unidentified actor portraying Abraham Lincoln during a visit to Ford's Theater Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009 in Washington.

Poitier, who broke down racial barriers with movies like "A Raisin in the Sun" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," called Obama a man of "simple origins" inspired by Lincoln.

"Now, finally, we have lived to see the election of an African American to the highest office," said the 81-year-old actor who was also the first African American to win an Academy Award for best actor in 1963.

Lucas, who was honored for his movies and his efforts to improve schools with multimedia tools, challenged Obama to make education his top priority as president.

"I will say the most important thing the human race has for our survival is our brain," he said. If knowledge is not passed down to the next generation, Lucas said, "we will become extinct."

Exxon Mobil Corp. Chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson, who led fundraising for the theater, said officials already have garnered more than $49 million for the renovation and ongoing projects. Organizers expect to raise even more, surpassing their $50 million goal, he said.

Exxon Mobil contributed $5 million to the project, and the District of Columbia government gave $10 million.

Brad Paisley leads ACM awards with 6 nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Brad Paisley leads all finalists for the Academy of Country Music Awards with six nominations, but the biggest surprise might be former Trick Pony singer Heidi Newfield's five nods.

Paisley was nominated Wednesday for entertainer of the year and male vocalist, an honor he won last year. He's also a finalist for record, song and video of the year for "Waitin' on a Woman," and for vocal event of the year for "Start a Band" with Keith Urban.

Newfield released her solo debut, "What Am I Waiting For," last August after 10 years with Trick Pony. She's nominated in five categories, including song of the year and video of the year for "Johnny and June," an ode to the late Johnny and June Carter Cash.

"My manager called and woke me up this morning and said 'Turn your TV on' ... My husband and I watched the nominations with teary eyes and total elation," said Newfield, who won a 2001 ACM Award for top new group with Trick Pony. "The support and excitement for me and this record has really blown me away."

The Academy of Country Music Awards air on CBS from Las Vegas on April 5.

Kenny Chesney, the ACM's entertainer of the year four years running, received four nominations, including another in the coveted entertainer category. A fifth straight win would tie him with Alabama for the most consecutive entertainer trophies.

George Strait and Jamey Johnson also received four nominations apiece. Johnson, a relative newcomer, is up for top new male vocalist, as well as single record of the year and song of the year for his hit "In Color." This is the first time Johnson has been nominated as an artist. He won song of the year honors in 2006 for co-writing Strait's "Give It Away."

AP

Julianne Hough, left, LeAnn Rimes, and Kellie Pickler, right, are interviewed after reading the nominees for the Academy of Country Music Awards during a news conference in Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. The awards show will be held April 5, 2009, in Las Vegas.

Strait is again in the running for song of the year, this time for "I Saw God Today." The superstar's other nominations are for entertainer, top male vocalist and video of the year.

For the first time in her career, Carrie Underwood is nominated for entertainer of the year. Historically, women don't get nominated too often in this category. If she wins, she would become the just the seventh female to take the award, putting her alongside Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire and, most recently, the Dixie Chicks in 2000.

Underwood is also up for female vocalist, which she's won the last two years.

Urban got three nominations: entertainer of the year, top male vocalist and vocal event of the year for "Start a Band."

Trace Adkins, Brooks & Dunn, Little Big Town, Miranda Lambert, James Otto, Jake Owen, Taylor Swift and Sugarland each received two nominations.

Several categories will be opened up to interactive fan voting, including entertainer of the year for the second time. Last year's winner, Chesney, took issue with allowing fans to choose the show's top honor instead of ACM members, saying the method amounted to "complete disrespect" of the artists because it turned the award "into a sweepstakes to see who can push people's buttons the hardest on the Internet."

Online voting will begin Friday on GACTV.com.

Jessica Simpson, LeAnn Rimes, Kellie Pickler and Julianne Hough read the nominations live Wednesday during CBS' The Early Show broadcast.

‘American Idol’ gets down to 36 semifinalists

THE SEMIFINALISTS

A look at the 36 semifinalists competing on the eighth season of Fox’s “American Idol.”

Name: Adam Lambert
Age: 26
Hometown: Los Angeles
Audition City: San Francisco

■■■

Name: Alex Wagner-Trugman
Age: 19
Hometown: Los Angeles
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Alexis Grace
Age: 20
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Allison Iraheta
Age: 16
Hometown: Los Angeles
Audition City: San Francisco

■■■

Name: Anne Marie Boskovich
Age: 22
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.
Audition City: Jacksonville, Fla.

■■■

Name: Anoop Desai
Age: 21
Hometown: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Arianna Afsar
Age: 16
Hometown: San Diego
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Brent Keith
Age: 28
Hometown: Blanchester, Ohio
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Casey Carlson
Age: 20
Hometown: Minneapolis
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Danny Gokey
Age: 28
Hometown: Milwaukee
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Jackie Tohn
Age: 27
Hometown: Los Angeles
Audition City: New York

■■■

Name: Jasmine Murray
Age: 16
Hometown: Starkville, Miss.
Audition City: Jacksonville, Fla.

■■■

Name: Jeanine Vailes
Age: 27
Hometown: Sherman Oaks, Calif.
Audition City: San Francisco

■■■

Name: Jesse Langseth
Age: 25
Hometown: Minneapolis
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Joanna Pacitti
Age: 23
Hometown: Philadelphia
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Jorge Nunez-Mendez
Age: 20
Hometown: Carolina, Puerto Rico
Audition City: San Juan, Puerto Rico

■■■

Name: Ju’Not Joyner
Age: 26
Hometown: Bowie, Md.
Audition City: New York

■■■

Name: Kai Kalama
Age: 26
Hometown: San Clemente, Calif.
Audition City: San Francisco

■■■

Name: Kendall Beard
Age: 23
Hometown: Austin, Texas
Audition City: San Juan, Puerto Rico

■■■

Name: Kris Allen
Age: 23
Hometown: Conway, Ark.
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Kristen McNamara
Age: 22
Hometown: Napa, Calif.
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Lil Rounds
Age: 23
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Matt Breitzke
Age: 27
Hometown: Bixby, Okla.
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

■■■

Name: Matt Giraud
Age: 23
Hometown: Kalamazoo, Mich.
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Megan Corkrey
Age: 22
Hometown: Sandy, Utah
Audition City: Salt Lake City

■■■

Name: Michael Sarver
Age: 27
Hometown: Jasper, Texas
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Mishavonna Henson
Age: 18
Hometown: Irvine, Calif.
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Nathaniel Marshall
Age: 18
Hometown: Malone, N.Y.
Audition City: New York

■■■

Name: Nick Mitchell
Age: 27
Hometown: Brookfield, Conn.
Audition City: New York

■■■

Name: Ricky Braddy
Age: 25
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.
Audition City: Louisville, Ky.

■■■

Name: Scott MacIntyre
Age: 23
Hometown: Scottsdale, Ariz.
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Stephen Fowler
Age: 26
Hometown: Beachwood, Ohio
Audition City: New York

■■■

Name: Stevie Wright
Age: 16
Hometown: Phelan, Calif.
Audition City: Phoenix

■■■

Name: Tatiana Del Toro
Age: 23
Hometown: Los Angeles
Audition City: San Francisco

■■■

Name: Taylor Vaifanua
Age: 16
Hometown: Hurricane, Utah
Audition City: Salt Lake City, Utah

■■■

Name: Von Smith
Age: 22
Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.
Audition City: Kansas City, Mo.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maybe Tatiana Del Toro will stop crying now. The 23-year-old sobbin’ singer was revealed as one of the 36 semifinalists during Wednesday’s episode of “American Idol.”

Del Toro and the 53 other remaining hopefuls had to face judgment during the last phase of competition before the semifinals of the popular Fox network singing contest.

Other semifinalists include: over-the-top comedian Nick “Normund Gentle” Mitchell, graduate student Anoop Desai, dueling piano player Matt Giraud, mother-of-three Lil Rounds, theater actor Adam Lambert, oil rig worker Michael Sarver, welder Matt Breitzke, blind pianist Scott MacIntyre and Joanna Pacitti, who released an album on Geffen Records in 2006.

For the first time, several of the on-the-cusp contestants had to participate in a “sing-off” in front of the judges.

Amateur horror movie maker Cody Sheldon lost to Alex Wagner-Trugman. Kristen McNamara won a battle of the blondes over Jenn Korbee. Jackie Midkiff was defeated by Nathaniel Marshall. Jesse Langseth beat out Frankie Jordan.

“If it’s any consolation, you wouldn’t have won, anyway,” judge Simon Cowell matter-of-factly told Jordan.

For the next three weeks, different groups of 12 singers will perform. The top three vote-getters from each group will advance and become one of the show’s top 12 finalists.

After the first nine finalists are selected by viewer votes, judges will then select the final three contestants following a special wild card round March 5.

Thai official rebukes Jolie for refugee plea

BANGKOK (AP)—A senior Thai diplomat rebuked Hollywood star Angelina Jolie on Wednesday for speaking out on behalf of Muslim refugees from Myanmar.

Jolie—who is deeply involved in the plight of refugees in her capacity as a United Nations goodwill ambassador—called on the Thai government to respect the human rights of Myanmar’s Rohinyga “boat people” last week while touring a camp in northern Thailand for other refugees from the military-ruled nation.

The Rohingya, who are denied citizenship in their native land, have been trying to land in Thailand after treacherous sea journeys in recent months only to be towed back to sea and cast adrift by the Thai Navy.

Virasakdi Futrakul, permanent secretary of Thailand’s foreign ministry, said Jolie’s mission last week was to inspect a camp that houses refugees mostly from Myanmar’s ethnic Karenni minority not deal with the Rohinyga.

AP

In this image made available in London by the United Nations High Commision for Refugees, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie smiles with Karenni refugee children in the Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp in northern Thailand, during a one-day visit on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009.

“We probably have to warn UNHCR that they should not have comment on this because it was not the purpose of her visit,” he said.

UNHCR spokeswoman Kitt McKinsey declined to comment on Virasakdi’s remark

“She was extremely touched by the plight of the Rohingya people. She expressed the hope that the human rights of the Rohingya people will be respected just as the human rights of everyone in the world should be respected,” McKinsey said last week.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don’t just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
$5.25 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.25 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.
T TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)
RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS
For Friday, February 13 through Tuesday, February 17 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Friday The 13th
Friday 4:20 7:05 10:00
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:20 7:05 10:00
Monday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Tuesday 4:20 7:05
Jared Padalecki, Amanda Righetti
Horror, Remake • Rated R
Synopsis
Clay searches for his missing sister in the eerie woods of legendary Crystal Lake, where he stumbles on the creaky remains of rotting old cabins behind moss-covered trees. And that’s not the only thing lying in wait under the brush. Against the advice of police and cautions from the locals, Clay pursues what few leads he has, with the help of a young woman he meets among a group of college kids up for an all-thrills weekend.

★ ★ ★

Pink Panther 2
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Sat & Sun 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30
Monday 1:15 4:10 7:10
Tuesday 4:10 7:10
Steve Martin, Andy Garcia
Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG
Synopsis
The continuing adventures of Inspector Jacques Clouseau. When legendary treasures from around the world are stolen, including the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, Chief Inspector Dreyfus (John Cleese) is forced to assign Clouseau to a team of international detectives and experts charged with cathcing the thief and retrieving the stolen artifacts.

Ang Tanging Ina N’yong Lahat
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
Sat & Sun 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
Monday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Tuesday 4:25 7:20
Ai-Ai de las Alas, Eugene Domingo
Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
With the one, big, happy family that she has, any woman would admire Ina Montecillo (Ai-Ai de las Alas) as the embodiment of a perfect mother. But after more than 40 years of doing everything for her family, she realizes she hasn’t done anything for herself. Ina then embarks on a journey of finding her self-worth that surprisingly lands her as the president of the Philippines!

Push
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:40
Sat & Sun 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40
Monday 1:10 4:15 7:30
Tuesday 4:15 7:30
Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning
Thriller Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Coraline
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:35
Monday 1:20 4:05 7:25
Tuesday 4:05 7:25
Dakota Fanning, John Hodgman
Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Taken
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sat & Sun 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
Monday 1:25 4:30 7:15
Tuesday 4:30 7:15
Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

He’s Just Not That Into You
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sat & Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Jennifer Aniston, Scarlett Johansson
Romatic Comedy • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Teenage girl second-guesses engagement to impatient beau

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 but will be 17 in a few months. I have known my boyfriend, "Gabriel," for two years. He is my first boyfriend.

After four months of dating, Gabriel has asked me to marry him, and I said yes. He had been hinting about an engagement, and I didn't have the heart to say otherwise. Gabriel is very dear to me, but I keep hearing people say, "Keep your options open." I told Gabriel that I am young (he's 18), and I want to take it slowly, but he says if I break up with him to date other guys, he will never date me again.

Abby, I want to make sure Gabriel is the person I want to spend the rest of my life with. Sometimes I wish I hadn't started dating him because I feel too young to be engaged or married. I love Gabriel dearly. I don't want to break his heart or mine. I am also scared I might mess up this relationship. What should I do to make myself believe that I have found my true love?

STUCK IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR STUCK: You should have been absolutely honest with Gabriel from the beginning. When you have found your own true love, you won't have to "make yourself" believe it. You will KNOW it.

Gabriel is pressuring you because he is afraid if you start dating others he won't measure up. For both your sakes, tell him that you are not ready to make the kind of commitment he is demanding. He may not like hearing it, but it is the truth. You won't break his heart, and once you have done it, you will feel a sense of relief.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married almost five years. Our wedding present from his sister and her husband—who owns a video production company—was supposed to be our wedding video.

Abby, we still have not received it or seen it. We have asked for it many times, and his answer is always, "I'm working on it." It's really sad. I now have two children, and this has become a sore subject. What can I do to get it without causing any more drama in the family?

YEARNING TO SEE IT IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR YEARNING: What can you do to get it? Forget it! Either the video was lost or something went wrong with the camera during your wedding, and your brother-in-law didn't have the courage to fess up. Shame on him.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am confused. What is the rule of etiquette for buying drinks these days? I feel as though I am required to buy drinks for women whenever I am out, but I can't afford to keep this up. I'm afraid if I don't offer, I will be regarded as cheap.

I'm not dating anyone, but I still feel like it is my "macho duty" whenever I'm out with female friends or meeting women. What is the acceptable social protocol?

J.G. IN COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

DEAR J.G.: Things have changed a lot over the last 20 years or so. Many women prefer to buy their own drinks these days. While it is sweet of you to offer, you are under no social obligation to do so. My advice to you is to be less quick on the draw.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

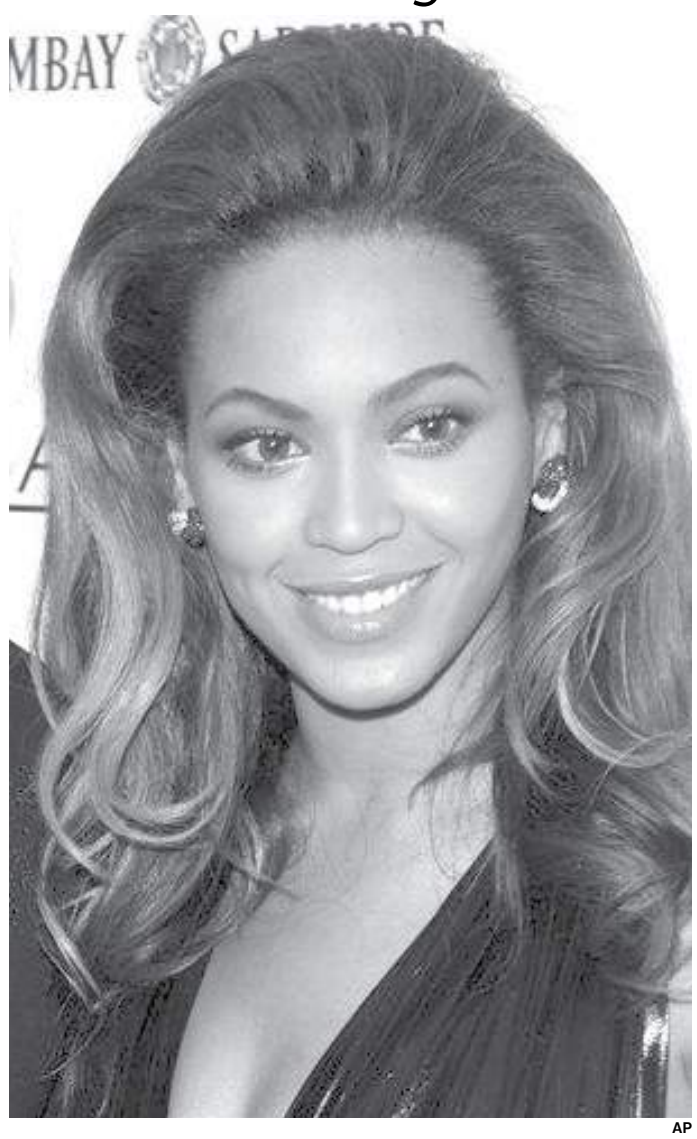
Beyonce, Stevie Wonder, will.i.am do Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox TV says Beyonce, Stevie Wonder and will.i.am are among the performers set for Thursday's NAACP Image Awards.

They join previously announced singers Jennifer Hudson and Seal, Fox said Wednesday. Other celebrities scheduled to take part include Academy Award nominee Taraji P. Henson ("The Curious Case of Benjamin Button") and Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Halle Berry and screenwriter-actor Tyler Perry are hosts of the 40th annual Image Awards, airing Thursday from 8-10 p.m. EST on Fox.

The awards coincide with the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and will kick off a yearlong centennial celebration.



AP

In this Dec. 1, 2008 file photo, Beyonce Knowles attends the premiere of "Cadillac Records" in New York.

Singer-actress Mandy Moore and Ryan Adams engaged

AP

In this Oct. 22, 2008 file photo, actress Mandy Moore poses on the press line at the Peter Alexander boutique store launch in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Singer-actress Mandy Moore and rock singer Ryan Adams are engaged.

Moore's publicist Jillian Fowkes confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the two are planning to wed. No details were announced.

The 24-year-old Moore started out as a squeaky-clean teen singer and later crossed into movies with featured roles in such films as "License to Wed," "A Walk to Remember," "Saved" and "American Dreamz."

Adams, who played in the band Whiskeytown during the 1990s before turning solo, is known for his song "New York, New York," which appeared on his album "Gold," released in 2001.

Sam Shepard pleads guilty to DUI in Illinois

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. (AP)—Actor-playwright Sam Shepard has pleaded guilty to speeding and drunken driving charges in central Illinois.

Shepard apologized to McLean County Associate Judge Casey Costigan during Wednesday's hearing and said he never intends to drive under the influence again.

He was fined $600 and court costs and has been placed on 24 months' supervision. He also has to finish an alcohol treatment program and perform 100 hours of community service.

Shepard, who won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for drama for "Buried Child," was arrested Jan. 3 after officers stopped him for driving 16 mph over the speed limit. Police said a breath test indicated Shepard's blood-alcohol level was double the legal limit.

The 65-year-old Shepard says he often stops in the area when traveling from his Kentucky home to visit relatives in Minnesota.

In this Sept. 2, 2007 file photo, actor Sam Shepard arrives for the screening of his movie "The assassination of Jesse James by the coward Robert Ford" at the 64th Venice Film Festival, in Venice, Italy.

AP

In this July 17, 2008 photo, Nicollette Sheridan, from the show "Desperate Housewives", is seen during the ABC panel at the Television Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

ABC: Sheridan leaving 'Housewives'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—ABC says Nicollette Sheridan is leaving "Desperate Housewives."

The 45-year-old Sheridan plays vamp Edie Britt on the comedy-drama about domestic life on Wisteria Lane. The network did not say Wednesday when Sheridan's role would end.

Her departure was first made public by TV Guide magazine.

A call to Sheridan's publicist was not immediately returned.

"Desperate Housewives," a top 20 show and one of ABC's most successful series, stars Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross and Eva Longoria Parker.

Bahamas judge denies bail request in Travolta case

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A judge refused on Wednesday to lower the bail requirement for an ambulance driver accused of trying to extort $25 million from actor John Travolta following his son's death in the Bahamas.

Tarino Lightbourne, one of the paramedics who tried to revive 16-year-old Jett Travolta, has been held since Jan. 23 on charges of attempted extortion and conspiracy to extort money.

At a hearing in Nassau, the island chain's capital, Magistrate Carolita Bethel said Lightbourne could apply again next month to reduce his $50,000 bail requirement if it still has not been met.

Attorney and former opposition Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater also has been charged with conspiracy in the alleged plot, but she is free on $50,000 bail.

The pair allegedly demanded money in exchange for suppressing a document related to the treatment of the celebrity's son, who died on Jan. 2 after he suffered a seizure at a family vacation home.

According to police, the document would have released emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance. That did not happen in Jett's case, however, they said.

It is unclear why the pair allegedly believed the Travoltas would pay to keep the document from being released.

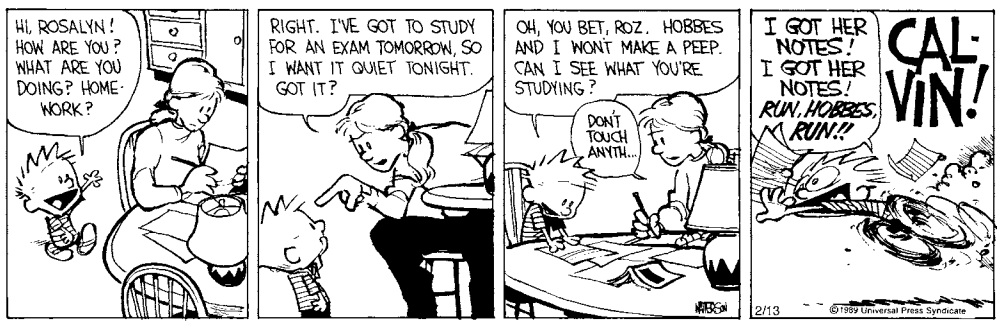
AP

In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, actor John Travolta arrives at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, ROSALYN! HOW ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HOMEWORK?
RIGHT. I'VE GOT TO STUDY FOR AN EXAM TOMORROW, SO I WANT IT QUIET TONIGHT. GOT IT?
OH, YOU BET, ROZ. HOBBES AND I WON'T MAKE A PEEP. CAN I SEE WHAT YOU'RE STUDYING?
DON'T TOUCH ANYTH...
I GOT HER NOTES! I GOT HER NOTES! RUN, HOBBES, RUN!!
CALVIN!
2/13
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ARMANDO, MY FORK IS DIRTY
MY APOLOGIES, SIR
I SHALL PLUNGE IT INTO MY HEART, AND GET YOU A CLEAN ONE
BOY, YOU'VE GOTTA ADMIRE THAT DEDICATION
AND THAT SARCASM
JIM DAVIS 2-13 © 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

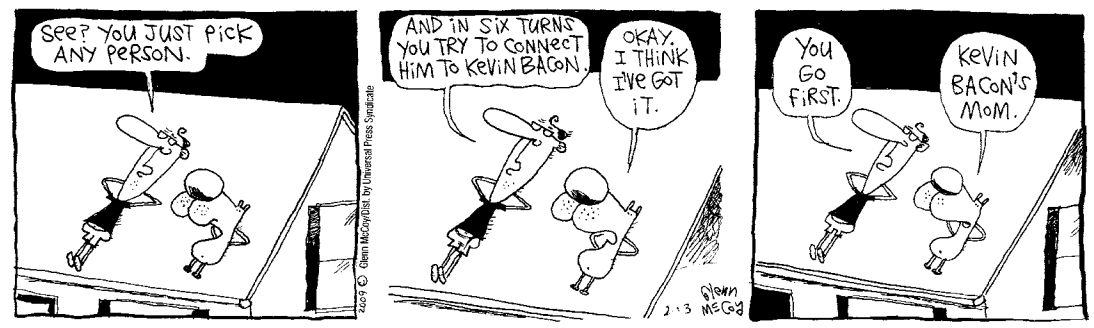
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WE ALL HAVE TO CUT BACK AND MAKE SACRIFICES DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES, ADAM...
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
...AND NOT SHAVING MY LEGS AS OFTEN IS ONE OF MINE.
BRIAN BASSET
©2009 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM 2/13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


See? You just pick any person.
AND IN SIX TURNS YOU TRY TO CONNECT HIM TO KEVIN BACON.
OKAY. I THINK I'VE GOT IT.
YOU GO FIRST.
KEVIN BACON'S MOM.
2009 © Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2-13 McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

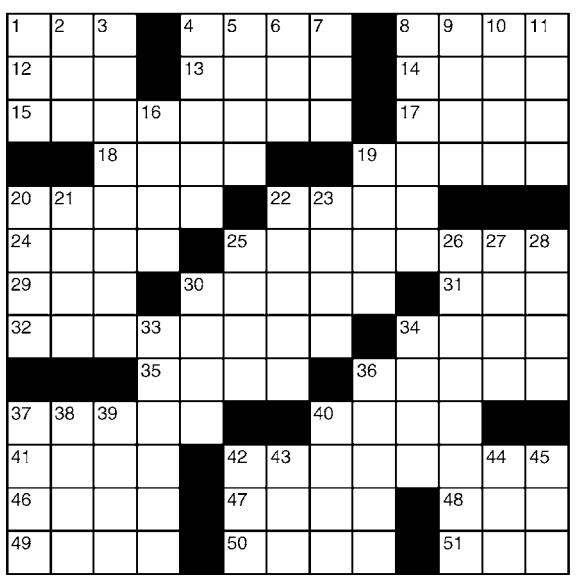
ACROSS
1 Muppet master Henson
4 Look-alike
8 Low range
12 Literary collection
13 Head light?
14 Easter flower
15 Redo
17 In due time
18 Uncomplicated
19 Mexican's ancestor, maybe
20 Squander
22 Exposed
24 Grounded flock
25 Luthor's enemy
29 Standard
30 Ancient Dead Sea region
31 Carte lead-in
32 Hitchcock classic
34 Vail gear
35 Roddick of tennis
36 Performs, biblically
37 Home of America's largest urban zoo
40 Drink
41 Trickster god
42 Get amorous
46 Ostentation
47 Garfield's pal
48 Lubricant
49 Mediocre
50 Poetic foot
51 Today's "groovy"

DOWN
1 Predicament
2 — fix
3 Guarantee
4 More than just that?
5 Undulating
6 — -de-France
7 Clause connector
8 Sports jacket
9 "— She Sweet?"
10 Plumlike fruit
11 Harmonization
16 Chow
19 Vicinity
20 Cried
21 Asian servant
22 Crony
23 Tarzan's clique
25 Irrational number
26 Indemnify
27 Settled down
28 One of CSN&Y
30 Hoodoo
33 Exile
34 Ground
36 Uncool sort
37 Let the cat out of the bag
38 Irritate
39 Gumbo need
40 Read cursorily
42 Miss Piggy's pronoun
43 Oklahoma city
44 Compete
45 Will Ferrell movie

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	I	L	■	Y	A	P	■	A	V	E	R		
F	I	R	E	■	E	V	E	■	B	E	T	A		
A	M	A	H	■	M	A	R	■	A	R	C	H		
R	E	N	A	M	E	■	C	O	S	T	■	■		
■	■	■	V	A	N	N	A	W	H	I	T	E		
S	N	O	R	T	■	A	L	L	■	C	O	G		
P	O	P	E	■	A	C	E	■	G	A	G	A		
E	A	T	■	H	U	H	■	S	O	L	O	N		
W	H	I	T	E	B	O	A	R	D	■	■	■		
■	■	M	E	N	U	■	D	I	S	A	R	M		
C	H	I	N	■	R	H	O	■	E	L	S	E		
B	O	Z	O	■	N	I	P	■	N	O	V	A		
S	E	E	R	■	S	E	T	■	D	E	P	T		

Yesterday's answer 2-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Feist, 33; Peter Gabriel, 59; Stockard Channing, 65; George Segal, 75

Happy Birthday: You will face many of your past acquaintances and can rectify any unresolved problems. Memories will open new conversations regarding your dreams, hopes and wishes. This is a time of fulfillment that will bring about personal success, so don't fear rejection. Your numbers are 6, 12, 15, 24, 28, 38, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Work as a team player and you will end up a leader. Your ideas and solutions should involve everyone, bringing out their strengths. You will inspire the people around you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It won't hurt to be a little unorthodox in the way you handle unusual situations. If the situation becomes impossible, back away and take your own action to prevent further turmoil. You may have to move along on your own. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Plan a mini vacation or sign up for a course or trade-show that can offer you some interesting options. Your future is about to take a twist that can make your life happier. Love is in the stars and the chance to work with someone you consider special will give you hope for the future. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be creative. Making changes to your residence or considering a move will get you revved up about the future and the available prospects. Don't procrastinate when the possibilities are so great. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A partnership appears to be lucrative and complementary to what you have to offer. A past idea, partner or even place of interest will come into play and will help make your plans simple and accessible. Stick to a set budget. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may want to consider changing your vocation or picking up information or skills that allow you to advance. Talk to someone who can give you a lead or help you network. An old boss or colleague will have good advice. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There will be no room for laziness. Get out and interact with people and good things will start to happen. Connecting with people from your past and meeting new friends will expand your interests, your outlook and your attitude. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Feeling vengeful will eat you up and hold you back. You have to look ahead if you want to get ahead. Get on with life and the things that matter most to you. You will rediscover something about yourself and your skills. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Check out an opportunity that can lead you in an entirely different direction career-wise. Love is in the stars and, with Valentine's Day approaching, you may want to do something special to invite a little extra affection and good times your way. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can't trust everyone, especially when your emotions are involved. Protect your assets and don't be fooled by empty promises. Put your cash somewhere safe so you aren't tempted to get involved in a fast-cash scheme. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Everything will work itself out as long as you are true to yourself. Love is on the rise and, if you get together with someone you used to know, you will discover new interests and develop a strong and lasting relationship. Let your imagination be your guide. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look back and you will realize that things you did in the past now have greater meaning for you. Get together with someone who can help you fulfill your dreams as well as his or hers. Timing is everything and, this time, you've got it right. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You look at all sides of any situation. You are a humanitarian—enthusiastic and willing to go the extra mile.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		2						
	4		1			6		7
5					6			8
		4		3				
9				7				1
				6		7		
7			5					6
1		3			8		2	
						1		9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	1	2	3	7	4	6	5
2	3	5	4	8	6	9	7	1
7	4	6	9	5	1	2	8	3
4	2	3	7	1	8	6	5	9
1	5	9	3	6	2	7	4	8
6	8	7	5	4	9	3	1	2
3	6	8	1	9	4	5	2	7
5	1	2	6	7	3	8	9	4
9	7	4	8	2	5	1	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/12

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN — **Solution: 10 letters**

S	L	C	E	L	W	M	U	E	C	Y	L	A	O	L
I	H	E	R	O	D	E	S	S	A	Y	U	L	A	G
S	T	A	U	A	K	(T)	B	E	D	T	E	I	A	O
H	H	N	N	D	T	S	(E)	L	H	G	R	M	V	D
C	D	O	H	G	N	E	R	(O)	N	E	S	D	O	U
I	M	E	R	C	H	A	R	A	(P)	E	R	U	R	N
V	O	A	W	T	I	A	R	M	S	A	E	L	A	O
E	Z	R	E	A	N	V	I	R	M	T	P	T	H	V
Y	A	W	I	M	A	E	E	A	A	N	I	O	C	E
R	R	O	V	I	I	V	M	E	K	T	N	A	N	N
O	T	C	S	T	O	R	Y	U	G	N	I	U	O	I
G	R	S	R	A	L	U	C	A	N	R	E	V	G	H
I	U	O	P	O	L	T	A	V	A	O	E	M	E	S
R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	M	E	L	M	S	A	I
G	S	Y	A	L	P	Y	K	S	N	E	R	P	I	K

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/13

Angelo, Author, Coin, Crater, Crimea, Debt, Drama, Duel, Essay, Godunov, Goncharova, Grigoryevich, Imperial, Kamenka, Kiprensky, Kishinev, Ludmila, Lyceum, Maria, Monument, Moscow, Mozart, Narrative, Novel, Odessa, Plays, Poet, Poltava, Repin, Romantic, Russia, Selo, Sergeevich, Shanghai, Short, Story, Tsarskoe, Vernacular, Verses, View, Wound

Yesterday's Answer: Vancouver

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

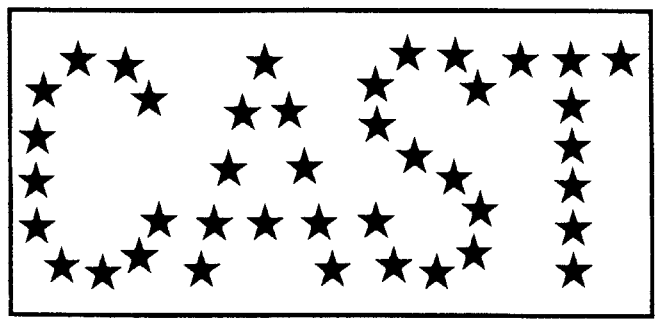
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
All-star cast

BUD'S BAR
Sweetheart Night. Sat 14 @7pm. All Ladies coming through the door will receive one free Rose & Champagne plus a raffle ticket to win many gift & cash prizes. Merchant marines will be on special–after every $5.00 spent you will receive another raffle to win more.

BUD'S BAR
Every Wednesday @ 9pm
Jerry & Elli Jaming Band
Every Friday @ 9pm
Sam Joyner & The Blues Band
Let's Jam

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

SHAKIR'S REALTY & INSURANCE
1ST FLOOR, SUITE 103 SHAKIR BLDG II, BEACH RD., CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN.
TEL. 234-5152 • 287-2254
(WE BUY, SELL, LEASE, RENT PROPERTIES)

RENTALS
3br, 2bth house, Capital Hill... $900/mo.
4br, 2bth house, Tototville.... $950/mo.
4br, 3bth house, Gualo Rai.... $900/mo.
3br, 2bth house, Garapan..... $950/mo.

APARTMENTS
2br, 1bth furnished, Beach Rd. CK w/ WiFi . $400/mo.
Spacious studio furnished, Gualo Rai w/ WiFi . $300/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, CK..... $350/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, Dandan... $350/mo.
1br, 1bth furnished, Susupe... $275/mo.
2br, 1bth w/ swimming pool... $750/mo.
Back-up generator

SALE & LEASE
4br, 2bth house, Dandan, oceanview..... $210K
5br, 4bth house, Dandan, oceanview..... $250K
4br, 3bth house, Dandan, newly renovated .. $140K
4br, 2bth house + 2unit 2br apt. As Terlaje .. $160K
3br, 1bth house, Gualo Rai, oceanview..... $110K
Executive 5br, 3bth house, w/ swimming pool, Papago. Must see to appreciate..... $320K
5br, 3bth house, Kobler with fence..... $165K

LAND
We have beach & oceanview properties available

CALL OR VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

YCO CORPORATION
is looking for the following positions:
COOK & BAKER
Cook must have experience in Local, Japanese, Mexican and American cuisine.
Applicant may submit their resume at 3rd floor Yumul Bldg. Garapan, Saipan (Strictly no phone call)

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 02/03/09 Closing Date: CONTINUOUS

POSITION	EXAMINATION NO.
Audit Manager (2) positions	09-010
Senior Auditor (3) positions	09-011
Audit Supervisor (2) positions	09-012
Auditor (4) positions	09-013

For more information , please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcements at the Office of Personnel Management (OPA) in Garapan.

FOR RENT/LEASE - RESIDENTIAL
House for rent or lease in As Lito, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom. For more info. pls. call 234-6695

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL
Apartment room for rent. 2 bedroom $210. 3 bedroom $270. Located in Koblerville. Contact # 288-0728. Yoon Won Suck.

AUTOMOTIVE
For Sale 2004 Nissan Sentra, 4dr, auto. trans. Good condition. $5,900. Call Zheng @ 287-7676

HELP WANTED
TUNA LONGLINE FISHERMAN
Must have: Sea time and verified high seas longline fishing experience • Working knowledge of vessel safety, operation and high seas of fishing industry. • Ability to spend up to 4 weeks at sea.
Locals, IRs and contract workers.
Apply at USA Islands Seafood, Inc./Saipan USA Fisheries, Inc. at Beach Road, Garapan

HOUSE FOR RENT
3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome.
Please call 483-3848/285-2713 for more information.

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-008

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Tables and Chairs for Head Start Resources and Training Centers for Tinian, Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag Centers**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-008" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 09, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-008" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Northrop Grumman Corporation is seeking candidates for the following positions:

SITE SUPERVISOR

The Northrop Grumman Technical Services Sector USCIS Program Application Support Center (ASC) Site Supervisor is responsible for the overall operation of the ASC and supervises part-time Biometrics Technician. This position is located in **Saipan - Northern Marianas Islands (United States)**, in a new office for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. U.S. Citizenship required. Must be able to obtain DHS Security Clearance and pass credit and drug screens.

SALARY: **$13.55** per hour plus a $3.24 per hour Health & Welfare Benefit.

Send your resume to: **Freddie.Sudheimer@ngc.com**.

PART-TIME BIOMETRICS TECHNICIAN

The Northrop Grumman Technical Services Sector USCIS Program Application Support Center part-time Biometrics Technician will be responsible for immigrant biometrics capture. This position is located in **Saipan - Northern Marianas Islands (United States)**, in a new office for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. U.S. Citizenship required. Must be able to obtain DHS Security Clearance and pass credit and drug screens.

SALARY: **$11.28** per hour plus a $3.24 per hour Health & Welfare Benefit.

Send your resume to: **Freddie.Sudheimer@ngc.com**.

For all current opportunities, please visit our website:
careers.northropgrumman.com

NORTHROP GRUMMAN
DEFINING THE FUTURE™

© 2009 Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. U.S. Citizenship is required for most positions.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Construction of Generator House at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-009" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to MT. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals **to establish and facilitate a Scoring Center in the CNMI State Public School System (PSS) statewide Standard Based Assessment.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-010" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System and approved be the contractor.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Cavaliers eclipse Suns, 109-92

CLEVELAND (AP)—Before packing for Phoenix, Mo Williams padded his All-Star stats.

Playing in his first home game since finally being made an All-Star after being skipped over twice, Williams scored a career-high 44 points and LeBron James added 26 as the Cleveland Cavaliers reached the break by winning their 40th game, 109-92 over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

The Cavs, who believe they were wronged by a controversial call in the final seconds of a one-point loss at Indiana on Tuesday, bounced back from their first two-game losing slide this season with an impressive performance. They had their 23-game home winning streak stopped on Sunday by the Los Angeles Lakers .

But with Williams going 18-of-26 from the floor, making seven 3-pointers and adding seven assists, Cleveland embarked on a new home streak while its point guard provided a final argument he should have been an Eastern Conference All-Star from the outset.

''We all believed he should have been there,'' James said. ''I think that's part of the reason he played so well tonight, to let everybody know that he really belongs there.''

The Cavaliers easily outran the speedy Suns, who were without starting point guard Steve Nash . He didn't dress to get extra rest for numerous sore spots.

Amare Stoudemire scored 27 and Grant Hill 14 for Phoenix (28-23), which will host this weekend's All-Star activities and could undergo a makeover before the Feb. 21 trading deadline. Stoudemire and Shaquille O'Neal have both been mentioned in trade rumors that are expected to intensify in the coming days; the Suns have been a disappointment to this point.

Nuggets 82, Magic 73

At Orlando, Fla., Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and eight rebounds, and Denver ended a 15-game losing streak in Orlando.

Kenyon Martin scored 13 points, Nene added 12 and Chauncey Billups had 11 points for the Nuggets, who hadn't won in Orlando since March 10, 1992.

Dwight Howard had 16 points and Rashard Lewis scored 12 for the Magic, who finished with a season low in points, a season-high 24 turnovers and were held to a season-low 30.4 percent shooting from the floor.

Raptors 91, Spurs 89

At Toronto, Roko Ukic scored a career-high 22 points, Andrea Bargnani had 23 and the Toronto cooled off San Antonio.

Manu Ginobili matched a season-high with 32 points, including 15 in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough for the Spurs, who had won 11 of 13 coming in.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 13 rebounds and Tony Parker scored 22 points for San Antonio, but missed what would have been a game-tying jumper at the buzzer.

Jason Kapono scored 21 for the Raptors, who won for just the second time in eight games.

Hawks 99, Pistons 95

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Joe Johnson scored 27 points and Flip Murray had 23 for Atlanta.

Allen Iverson scored 26 for the Pistons, who fell a game under .500 since he joined the lineup.

Al Horford scored 15, Marvin Williams had 11 and Josh Smith added 10 to give the up-and-coming Hawks balance offensively. The Hawks (31-21) matched the most wins they've had at the All-Star break in a decade.

Detroit (27-24) heads into the break after losing three straight and 13 of 18.

Bobcats 101, Wizards 89

At Charlotte, N.C., Charlotte's D.J. Augustin scored 24 points and Vladimir Radmanovic added 21 points in another strong game for his new team.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Mo Williams (2) shoots over Phoenix Suns' Grant Hill (33) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009, in Cleveland.

Emeka Okafor dominated the inside with 16 points and 13 rebounds and Raymond Felton had 15 points, eight rebounds and nine assists for the Bobcats, who entered the All-Star break on a two-game winning streak.

Caron Butler scored 26 points and Antawn Jamison had 23 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

76ers 91, Grizzlies 87

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 18 points and made the winning basket with 26 seconds left, lifting Philadelphia to its fourth straight win.

O.J. Mayo had just tied the game at 87 for Memphis with a 3-pointer.

Hakim Warrick, who scored a season-high 31 points for the Grizzlies, missed a dunk and Iguodala and Samuel Dalembert sealed the win from the free throw line.

Celtics 89, Hornets 77

At New Orleans, Paul Pierce scored 30 points and the Celtics spoiled Chris Paul's return from injury.

Kevin Garnett added 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Eddie House scored eight of his 12 points in the final period to help Boston pull away despite the absence of Ray Allen, who hyperextended his right thumb in the first half.

Boston has won eight straight road games.

Paul, who'd missed four games with a right groin strain, finished with 13 points and five assists in 32 minutes. David West had 15 points and Hilton Armstrong 14 for New Orleans.

Rockets 94, Kings 82

At Houston, Yao Ming had 24 points and 18 rebounds, Rafer Alston dished out a season-high 13 assists and the Rockets won again without the injured Tracy McGrady.

Luis Scola added 19 points and 11 rebounds and Ron Artest scored 19 for the Rockets, who improved to 12-6 with McGrady out of the lineup this season. McGrady missed his 17th game with soreness in his left knee, the aftermath of offseason surgery. He also sat out one game with a sprained ankle.

After a sluggish first half, the Rockets hardly needed McGrady against the woeful Kings, who scored only 31 points in the middle two quarters.

Bucks 122, Pacers 110

At Milwaukee, Richard Jefferson scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half and Ramon Sessions added 15 points and a season-high 17 assists.

Indiana lost its ninth straight on the road, falling to 6-22, partly because it took so long for All-Star Danny Granger to find his stroke. Granger scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, but the Pacers couldn't rally.

Milwaukee (26-29) tied its win total from last season and improved to 2-1 without starters Michael Redd (knee), Andrew Bogut (back) and Luke Ridnour

Jazz 113, Lakers 109

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 31 points and 11 assists and the Jazz snapped the Lakers' seven-game winning streak.

Kobe Bryant scored 37 points and Lamar Odom had 19 points and 19 rebounds, but the Lakers allowed the Jazz to shoot a season-high 58.6 percent.

The Jazz didn't score from the field and made 2-for-8 from the line in a nearly 4-minute stretch in the fourth quarter to give the Lakers a last gasp. Odom and Bryant combined for 10 points and Bryant's 3-pointer gave the Lakers their first lead of the fourth quarter, 105-104, at the 1:36 mark.

Sandwiched around Bryant's steal and layup, Paul Millsap made a three-point play for Utah and Okur hit a three-pointer to put Utah up 110-107.

Clippers 128, Knicks 124, OT

At Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 30 points and the Clippers rallied from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to force overtime, then beat the Knicks.

Steve Novak added a career-high 23 points, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 15 rebounds, Al Thornton had 20 points and Baron Davis 13 points and a career-high 20 assists for the Clippers.

Nate Robinson had 33 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds, and Wilson Chandler added 27 points for the Knicks, who lost their sixth in a row overall and their 10th consecutive against the Clippers in Los Angeles.

David Lee had 17 points and 16 rebounds, extending his streak of consecutive double-double games to 16 and tying him with Bob McAdoo for third longest in Knicks history.

Trail Blazers 106, Thunder 92

At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy scored 22 points and Travis Outlaw came off the bench with 21. Greg Oden had 16 points and 10 rebounds for his rookie-leading 16th double-double of the season.

Russell Westbrook had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder, while Kevin Durant had 20 points in another display of the top two picks in the 2007 NBA draft—this time with a very different result.

Oden was the top pick that year, while Durant was No. 2. But Oden wound up having microfracture surgery on his knee, and missed that season.

Durant went on to the league's Rookie of the Year award, leaving many to ponder whether the Blazers made a mistake.

Miguel Tejada guilty of misleading Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dressed in a defendant's dark suit instead of an All-Star's crisp uniform, Miguel Tejada became the first high-profile player convicted of a crime stemming from baseball's steroids era, pleading guilty Wednesday in federal court to misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Under a plea agreement with the same prosecutors pursuing a perjury indictment against Roger Clemens, Tejada admitted he withheld information about an ex-teammate's use of steroids and human growth hormone when questioned by a House committee's investigators in August 2005.

Tejada—the 2002 American League MVP with the Oakland Athletics and a five-time All-Star shortstop now with the Houston Astros—also acknowledged he bought HGH while playing for the A's, but said he threw the drugs away without using them. Prosecutors said they have no evidence to contradict that.

"I just want to apologize," Tejada said as he fought back tears hours later at a Houston news conference, where he did not take questions. "I made a mistake, and now I know how serious of a mistake that I made for not answering a question about another teammate."

The misdemeanor can lead to as much as a year in jail. Federal guidelines call for a lighter sentence, and one of his lawyers, Mark Tuohey, said he thinks Tejada will receive probation.

Astros general manager Ed Wade expects Tejada to be present when players report for spring training Tuesday in Florida. Wade also said Tejada still plans to play in the March 5-23 World Baseball Classic.

"Hopefully, we're one more step for putting a lot of stuff behind us," Wade said. "It's been a tough week for baseball and sports in general. We're finding out that it takes a lot of time for lies to dissipate and for sins to disappear."

Federal Magistrate Judge Alan Kay set Tejada's sentencing for March 26; the Astros are not scheduled to play an exhibition game that day.

Kay asked more than once whether the Dominican Republic-born Tejada understood this could affect his immigration status in the United States. "Yes, your honor," Tejada replied.

A letter sent by prosecutors to his attorneys on Feb. 5 outlining the terms of their plea deal said: "His guilty plea in this case may subject him to detention, deportation and other sanctions at the direction of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

But Tuohey said Tejada's status has been discussed with immigration officials. The lawyer does not believe Tejada will be deported because of this case.

"Because of the nature of the offense, considered a petty offense, not a crime of moral turpitude, we believe it will have no impact on his immigration status at all," Tuohey said. "And he plans—and he will soon in the next few years—be welcomed to citizenship in the United States."

At one point, Tejada apologized "to the whole United States, because this country gave me the opportunity to be who I am and the last thing that I want to do is let this country down."

As with the pending cases against seven-time Cy Young Award winner Clemens and seven-time MVP and home-run king Barry Bonds—whose trial begins March 2 in San Francisco—Tejada got in trouble not so much for what he did, but what he said.

Tejada's appearance came two days after his AL MVP successor, Alex Rodriguez, said he took banned substances while playing for the Texas Rangers in 2001-03. That admission came in the aftermath of a Sports Illustrated report that Rodriguez failed a drug test in 2003; he does not face criminal charges.

Even after being chastised by Kay for merely nodding in response to questions, Tejada did not say much in Washington on Wednesday other than "Yes, your honor" or "No, your honor" during the 45-minute hearing.

Brett Favre retires after 18 seasons

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Favre swears this is the real deal—no more last-minute comebacks.

The 39-year-old quarterback retired again Wednesday and insisted he won't look back. Well, at least for now.

"I have no reason to wonder why you would be so skeptical," Favre said Wednesday with a slight chuckle after announcing he was leaving the game after 18 record-setting seasons.

Favre, who retired last March only to return a few months later, kept this goodbye simple—no tearful farewell or jam-packed news conference. He spoke to the New York Jets on Wednesday morning, telling owner Woody Johnson, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and coach Rex Ryan that he was calling it a career.

"I have family and friends who are like, 'All right, Brett. Is this the real deal?'" Favre said during a conference call. "To me, it is. It is. Believe me. It's been a wonderful career, I couldn't ask for anything more. It was worth a shot for me to go to New York. I wish I could've played better down the stretch. I didn't.

"It's time to leave."

The Jets placed Favre on the reserve-retired list, meaning the quarterback's retirement paperwork had been filed with the NFL—something he didn't do last winter with the Packers.

"Emotionally, I'm OK with it," said Favre, who spent the day on his bulldozer and doing yard work on the grounds at his home in Kiln, Miss. "I really felt like it was time. Obviously, the circumstances last year were a lot different. Physically, if I felt better, we may not be having this conversation, but I think that's more than anything the writing on the wall."

His decision came six weeks after his only season with the Jets ended in disappointment as New York went 1-4 down the stretch and failed to make the playoffs.

A major reason for the collapse was Favre, who threw nine interceptions in those five games. He said he played with a torn biceps tendon in his right shoulder that got worse later in the season and needed a cortisone injection after the team's game at San Francisco in Week 14.

"It's something that obviously I was able to play with," he said. "I don't think I was nearly as productive as the season progressed, but it very well could be fine next year. I'm well aware of that. But then again, it could linger and bother me throughout the year and I just felt like it was time. I think that, to me more than anything, was a wakeup call."

Favre insisted that even if his shoulder felt better next season, he's still done with playing.

"It's nothing I would second-guess, no," he said.

If this is indeed it for Favre, he leaves the game with a slew of records, including career touchdown passes (464), completions (5,720), yards passing (65,127), regular-season victories (169) and interceptions (310).

"With Brett, there was always the possibility that he wouldn't play the second year," Johnson said. "We were hoping to get one good year out of Brett Favre. We picked him based on, in our opinion, his giving us the best chance to win last season. We were disappointed not to have made the Super Bowl, but we did some very good things with Brett."

The team improved from 4-12 in 2007 to 9-7, but the late-season woes cost Eric Mangini his job—and perhaps tarnished Favre's legacy a bit.

"I honestly believe I did everything I could do," he said. "I'm proud of everything I've done."

New York hired Ryan to replace Mangini, and he, along with Johnson and Tannenbaum, repeatedly said they wanted Favre to return. Instead, Favre spent several weeks after the season at home—at the suggestion of Tannenbaum—away from football before deciding to retire.

"It would've been fantastic to be coaching Brett," Ryan said. "It's a sad day to see him leave, to see him retiring."

New York now will move forward with a new quarterback, whether that will be Kellen Clemens, Brett Ratliff or Erik Ainge.

"I think it's going to be a great competition between those three," Ryan said. "And if something else comes along, so be it."

The Jets could look to sign a veteran free agent such as Jeff Garcia, Kerry Collins, Byron Leftwich or Rex Grossman, or target a quarterback with their first pick—No. 17 overall—in the draft in April.

Clemens was competing with Chad Pennington for the starting job last summer before Favre came to town.

"Jets fans, the Jets coaches and my teammates, even, have not seen the best of what I have to offer yet," said Clemens, who started eight games in 2007.

Favre had two years left on his contract and was due $13 million for next season, clearing a chunk of salary cap space for the Jets.

The three-time NFL MVP holds the mark among quarterbacks with 291 consecutive starts, including the playoffs, despite playing through several injuries throughout his career.

"The longevity of his career and his love for the game is truly inspiring," All-Pro kick returner-running back Leon Washington told The Associated Press. "I'm privileged to have played with not only a Hall of Fame QB, but also a great role model."

NFL BRIEFS

Aikman getting college degree 20 years later

DALLAS (AP)—Troy Aikman's passing days didn't end when he retired from the Dallas Cowboys. The Hall of Fame quarterback says he's passed his two final college courses and will graduate in June from UCLA—20 years after he left for the NFL. The Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday that Aikman is getting a bachelor's degree in sociology and will participate in UCLA's graduation ceremonies. The 42-year-old Fox Sports broadcaster says he's "finally taking care of unfinished business." Aikman says he promised his mother, when he left school just two courses shy of a degree, that he would return and finish. Aikman's final two courses included a class on race and ethnicity, and another on aging. He earned an "A" for both.

Pittsburgh planners may name street for Chuck Noll

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Planners may name a street to be built near the Pittsburgh Steelers' stadium after Chuck Noll, the coach who led the team to its first four Super Bowl wins. Plans for an amphitheater near Heinz Field that were approved by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission include a one-block street named Chuck Noll Way. City officials say they've received no formal request to name the proposed street. City Council must approve any such request. Other streets near Heinz Field and PNC Park, where the Pirates play, are named for Pittsburgh sports heroes. They include Pirates Hall of Famer Bill Mazeroski, Pitt football star Tony Dorsett, and late Steelers owner Art Rooney Sr.

Broncos hire Phifer as assistant coach-linebackers

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos on Monday hired former NFL standout linebacker Roman Phifer to assist linebackers coach Don Martindale. This is the first coaching job for Phifer, a 15-year NFL veteran and three-time Super Bowl champion. He played for the Rams, Jets, Patriots and Giants. The Broncos also announced they are retaining Keith Burns as assistant special teams coach, completing new coach Josh McDaniels' staff. Burns is a 13-year NFL veteran who spent 11 seasons in Denver and has spent the last two seasons working with the Broncos' special teams.

Talk 'N Text is Philippine Cup champion

Tropang Texters end 6-year title drought

MANILA, Philippines—This one championship Talk 'N Text will not let slip away.

Not when the Tropang Texters gutted it out over the Alaska Aces for a 93-89 victory Wednesday and cop the KFC PBA Philippine Cup crown at the packed Araneta Coliseum.

The Texters' gritty stand was nowhere more evident than in the last 2:36 of the game where they held the Aces scoreless after the latter came charging back from as much as a 63-76 deficit.

Only after Willie Miller's last desperate heave of a triple missed just before the final buzzer, the multi-colored balloons wafted down from the rafters and the real merry-making began.

In all, TNT bagged its second crown after its 2003 All-Filipino conquest and reinforced coach Chot Reyes' decision not to give up coaching after failing miserably in the FIBA-Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan in 2007.

"I felt I let the country down in Japan, so back then I wanted to take a break in coaching," Reyes related. "So for me, this is a validation I made the right decvision and it reinforces my love of the game, what I do in my profession. This somewhat erases the pain of that Tokushima debacle."

WWW.PBA.COM.PH

Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters pose with their KFC PBA Philippine Cup championship trophy after surviving Alaska Aces, 93-89, in game 7 of their best-of-seven finals series Wednesday at the packed Araneta Coliseum.

In the process, Reyes became the first coach to win all-Filipino titles with three different teams. He earlier won with Purefoods in 1993, his first year as PBA head coach, and with Coca-Cola in 2002. It was also his fifth title.

The 4-3 victory in the best-of-seven Finals was made sweeter when Mac-Mac Cardona was adjudged the PBA Press Corps' Mighty Bond Finals MVP after stressing his status as the Finals' leading scorer with a game-high 23 points. He also had two rebounds and as many assists and steals.

Jason Castro was foremost among those who backstopped Cardona, belying his rookie status with 19 points, eight rebounds, as many assists and two steals.

"I thought before the game that if we were goint to get solid games from Jason and Yancy (de Ocampo), we have great chances of winning," said Reyes. "We didn't get much from Yancy, but Jason is a big-game player."

Willie Miller led Alaska with 22 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, while four other players chipped in at least 10 points each, including Joe Devance's 14 points and 14 rebounds.

The Best Player of the Conference's misses were the costliest, coming as they did in the final 16 seconds of the game and the Aces only behind by 89-91. After missing only nine out of his 28 previous free throw attempts in the finals, Miller muffed two.

In the ensuing scramble, the Aces got a new lease on life when Ali Peek touched the ball last off the baseline. But the foul-baiting Miller totally missed a tight baseline drive and the Aces were forced to give their last affordable foul, 4.3 seconds to go.

Hastily fouled by Tony dela Cruz, Jimmy Alapag atoned for a miserable night by sinking two charities and the sigh of relief finally escaped TNT and its legions of supporters.

Cardona's triple gave TNT its biggest lead at 76-63, 10:53 to go in the game, the bulge somewhat helping give the Tropang Texters some comfort level in the face of Alaska's Reynel Hugnatan-led comeback.

Hugnatan, averaging 8.8 points per game in the Finals, scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth canto, rallying the Aces back to an 84-all tie forged by Devance's three-point play.

"We kept talking about it," said Reyes. "Alaska will come back and any lead is nothing. And because we talked about it, we didn't panic. "

Two more deadlocks ensued after that, the last at 89 on a Ranidel de Ocampo short stab, before Harvey Carey's baseline jumper gave TNT the lead for good at 91-89, 1:29 to go.

Both teams actually tried to bring the ball strong to the hoop, but TNT had more success as it spread out Alaska's defense more with some nifty perimeter shooting.

An 8-0 run, capped by Castro's layup, gave the Texters a 71-60 lead, 2:32 to go in the third period, before they went into the fourth with a 73-63 spread.

The Tropang Texters' starting backcourt duo of Alapag and Cardona actually started out slow, combining for 1-of-6 as against the 5-for-8 by Miller and LA Tenorio in the opening period.

But once Cardona heated up and the likes of Castro and Ren-Ren Ritualo chipped in their share, they still managed to take a 47-41 lead into the halftime break.

What helped give TNT its lead, which even stood at 43-32, was its 10 second chance points off 11 offensive rebounds. Alaska's shooting also went south after opening up with a 10-of-19 (52.6 percent) clip from the floor, missing 15 of 21 tries in the second quarter.

Helping Cardona concentrate on the game was the fact Reyes forwarded him a text by Alaska coach Tim Cone apologizing for the latter's statements he made regarding the player's earlier taunts against the Aces.

"Kinamayan ko din after the game," said Cardona, who said he looked at Cone's words as a form of motivation.

"Mas na-motivate pa nga ako," he said, before adding with a mischievous look: "Nagpapansin lang naman ako eh. Pinansin naman ako ni Tim Cone."

Talk 'N Text 93 – Cardona 23, Castro 19, de Ocampo R. 12, Alapag 10, Peek 10, Ritualo 9, Carey 7, de Ocampo 2, Dillinger 1, Aljamal 0.

Alaska 89 – Miller 22, Hugnatan 17, Devance 14, Tenorio 10, Fonacier 10, Ferriols 6, Thoss 4, dela Cruz 4, Cariaso 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-23, 47-41, 73-63, 93-89. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

QUICHOCHO

From Page 36

78-81, with 1:03 left in the fourth quarter.

The CNMI Nationals played pressure defense in the backcourt, rattling Quichocho's inbound passer. The Nationals eventually stole the ball with Tarkong intercepting a midcourt pass and driving coast-to-coast for a layup to move his team within one, 80-81, with 58. 7 second remaining on the clock.

Sonny Lerio gave Quichocho a breather when he went 2-for-2 from the foul line after a preemptive foul from the CNMI Nationals.

The CNMI Nationals' chances to steal the game disappeared after two botched plays. Keoni Chariton missed a baseline jumper, while Quincy Johnson muffed an undergoal stab.

Quichocho Law Office answered with two free throws from Lerio and one each from Cadagat and Jun Pantaleon to seal the win.

Quichocho improved to a 2-2 record and ended its two-game losing skid.

Cruz missed the CNMI Nationals' fourth game due to a flu. He played for Marianas High School in the MISO caging a few hours before the Budweiser competition, but saw limited minutes. Rabauliman also played for the Dolphins in the MISO caging, but was also sick and could not make it to the Nationals' game, as he was too tired after the MHS-KHS tiff went into overtime.

The Nationals dropped to a 3-1 record.

In the first game, IT&E took the solo lead after a 105-98 win over the Diamond Auto Fixers.

IT&E now has a 4-1 record, while the Fixers are still winless in three games.

First Game

IT&E 105 – Estolas 18, Bernardo 16, Mendoza 14, Abuel 13, Ranola 11, Mendiola 10, De Guzman 6, Artates 4, De Dios 4, De Vero 4, Ruluked 4, Montano 1.

Diamond Auto Fixers 98 – Muleta 24, Esdrelon 20, Marasigan 14, Peredo 14, Talania 12, Camacho 10, Dayrit 4.

Scoring by quarters: 28-26, 46-38, 79-66, 109-98.

Second Game

Quichocho Law Office 87 – Cadagat 26, Lerio 15, Mendoza 13, Moises 8, Itaas 5, Tagle 4, Umali 4, Palero 3, Capalad 2, Pantaleon 1.

CNMI Nationals 80 – Iguel 19, Tumaquip 18, Tarkong 15, Chariton 11, Moses 11, Camacho 9, Johnson 1, White 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-17, 33-31, 61-51, 87-80.

BAXTER

From Page 36

petitive beach volleyball tournaments at the junior level for Team Sota of Minnesota. He then suited up for Ball State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Corporate Financial Management and lifted this team to a third place finish in the 1994 NCAA Tournament.

When he turned pro in 2003, Baxter gained five Final Four berths in the AVP Tour from 2003 and 2005 while teaming up with various partner. In 2005, he ranked eighth in both digs (629) and kills (1181).

Baxter will be joined at the Marianas Cup by fellow returnees Phil Dalhausser, Jenn Snyder, and Jenelle Koester, and pros from Japan and Korea.

Dalhausser is coming off a gold medal win in the 2008 Beijing Olympics where he teamed up with Todd Rogers, and will be making his fourth stint at the Marianas Cup.

Snyder and Koester are on their second trip to Saipan after joining forces with Mili Saiki and Kelly Butcher, respectively, in their debut at the Marianas Cup last year.

Snyder and Saiki finished third last year, while the tandem of Koester and Butcher placed fourth.

The Marianas Cup is sanctioned by theNorthern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and is supported by Aon Insurance, Aqua Resort Club, Chong's Corporation, Delta Management Corporation, Glooay Mai Thai Spa, Gregg Elliott Artworks, Hertz, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Apparel, IT&E, KSPN2, LISS, Marianas Eye Institute, Mariana Resort & Spa, Marianas Trekking, MVA, Microl Corporation, No Ka Oi, NWA, PDI, Pacific Eagle Enterprises, PIC Guam, PIC Saipan, PTC, Saipan Grand Hotel, Seafix Inc., Shell Marianas, Star Sands Plaza, Stars & Stripes, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Topnotch, Traders Insurance, Triple J Wholesale, and WDI Saipan.

A clinic set for March 6 and to be conducted by the pros will kick off the festivities at the Marianas Cup. The pros will also play exhibition games on the same day, while actual competition will take place on March 7 and 8.

DOLPHINS

From Page 36

the game into overtime.

In overtime, MHS tightened up its defense and gave up no field goals to Kagman.

After muffing a two-point lead in the dying seconds of the match and making a crucial miscue, the Ayuyus never recovered, as they scored only four free throws in the extra session.

Kagman committed too many errors in the last five minutes of the extended game and was bothered by the Dolphins' intense defense.

Going into the last minute of the game, Edwin Camacho was about to nail Kagman's first field goal in overtime, when he eluded his defender on a way to a layup. But Marvin Rabauliman came out of nowhere and swatted away Camacho's shot.

Jericho Cruz, who started playing only in the fourth quarter, as he was nursing a flu, carried the cudgels, offensively for the Dolphins in overtime making six of MHS's 12 points.

The win gave the Dolphins a sweep of the regular season, while the loss was the Ayuyus' second in four games. Kagman also bowed to MHS in the first outing.

The Dolphins advanced to the finals and will wait the winner of the Ayuyus-Manta Rays playoffs next week.

MHS 83 – Ada 24, Rabauliman 18, Tudela 18, Cruz 16, Williams 3, Kenty 3.

KHS 75 – Brel 25, Iguel 18, Ogumoro 10, Camacho 8, Pangelinan 6, Concepcion 2, Norita 2, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 37-34, 58-52, 71-all, 83-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	11	.796	–
Philadelphia	27	24	.529	14 1/2
New Jersey	24	29	.453	18 1/2
New York	21	30	.412	20 1/2
Toronto	21	34	.382	22 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	40	11	.784	–
Detroit	27	24	.529	13
Milwaukee	26	29	.473	16
Chicago	23	29	.442	17 1/2
Indiana	21	33	.389	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	38	13	.745	–
Atlanta	31	21	.596	7 1/2
Miami	27	24	.529	11
Charlotte	21	31	.404	17 1/2
Washington	11	42	.208	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	16	.686	–
Dallas	31	20	.608	4
Houston	32	21	.604	4
New Orleans	30	20	.600	4 1/2
Memphis	15	37	.288	20 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	36	17	.679	–
Portland	32	19	.627	3
Utah	30	23	.566	6
Minnesota	17	34	.333	18
Oklahoma City	13	40	.245	23

Pacific Division

LA Lakers	42	10	.808	–
Phoenix	28	23	.549	13 1/2
Golden State	18	35	.340	24 1/2
LA Clippers	12	40	.231	30
Sacramento	11	43	.204	32

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 109, Phoenix 92
Denver 82, Orlando 73
Toronto 91, San Antonio 89
Atlanta 99, Detroit 95
Charlotte 101, Washington 89
Philadelphia 91, Memphis 87
Boston 89, New Orleans 77
Houston 94, Sacramento 82
Milwaukee 122, Indiana 110
Utah 113, LA Lakers 109
LA Clippers 128, New York 124, OT
Portland 106, Oklahoma City 92

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS

IT& E	4	1
CNMI Nationals	3	1
Ol'Aces	2	1
Docomo	2	2
Quichocho Law Office	2	2
Runnin' Rebels	1	4
Diamond Auto Fixers	0	3

MISO STANDINGS

Boys

MHS	4	0
KHS	2	2
SSHS	0	4

Girls

MHS	5	0
KHS	4	2
MCS	1	3
SSHS	0	5

2009 TDHC Invitational Basketball League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members of Asia Pacific Hotel, Inc. take their turn to pose in front of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Members and coaching staff of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Pacific Islands Club team.

Saipan World Resort and its supporters pose for a group photo in front of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino before the opening ceremony of the competition at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

The host team Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino general manager Tom Lui delivers a speech during the opening ceremony at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium.

A cheering squad performs at the opening ceremony.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and World Resort general managers lead the ceremonial toss.

The Aqua Resort Club team.

Members of Club TDHC pose for a group shot. The group is organizing the invitational basketball league.

Cavaliers eclipse Suns, 109-92

Playing in his first home game since finally being made an All-Star after being skipped over twice, Williams scored a career-high 44 points and LeBron James added 26 as the Cleveland Cavaliers reached the break by winning their 40th game 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Talk 'N Text is Philippine Cup champion

Tropang Texters gutted it out over the Alaska Aces for a 93-89 victory Wednesday and cop the KFC PBA Philippine Cup crown at the packed Araneta Coliseum. 34

Quichocho Law Office snaps skid

Quichocho Law Office's Bonbon Cadagat, center, goes for a reverse layup against the CNMI Nationals' Quincy Johnson, right, and Keoni Chariton, left, during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C, Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Quichocho Law Office withstood CNMI Nationals' gallant stand and eked out an 87-80 win during their game in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Quichocho went 6-for-8 from the foul line in the last 58.7 seconds of the game to finally thwart the hard-fighting Nationals.

Despite missing key players Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman, the Nationals kept pace with Quichocho Law Office and threatened the eventual winners on several occasions.

The last time was at the 80-81 tally after James Camacho and Jayvan Tarkong teamed up in a short 7-0 run.

Camacho scored five straight points making two free throws and a triple from the right baseline to cut the lead to three,

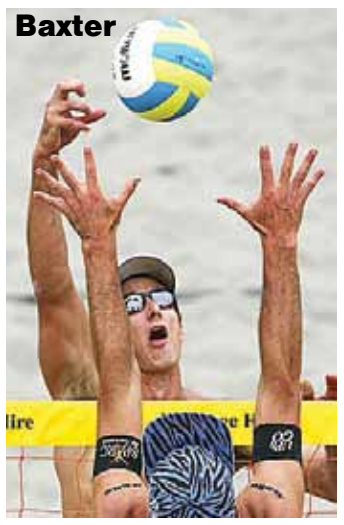
See QUICHOCHO on Page 34

Baxter to defend Marianas Cup title, Snyder coming

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

AVP Tour veteran Paul Baxter will be aiming for his third championship when he competes in the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival at the Pacific Islands Club sand court next month.

Baxter teamed up with Randy Steele in the men's doubles last year and prevailed in the finals over the Japanese duo of Daisuke Matsumoto and Shigekazu Fujimatsu, 21-13.



In 2004, the Baxter also partnered with Steele and the duo won its first championship.

Baxter is one of the four U.S. pro volleyball players who will be returning to Saipan to participate in the biggest beach volleyball event on island, which will run from March 6 to 8.

The 6'5" Minnesota native will be making his sixth trip here after having his Marianas Cup debut in 2003.

Baxter started joining com-

See BAXTER on Page 34

Dolphins outlast Ayuyus in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High Schoolsurvived its toughest test yet in the boys varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after pulling off a 83-75 overtime win over Kagman High School Wednesday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

A buzzer-beating jumper from Zack Tudela in regulation saved the Dolphins from absorbing its first loss in the season.

Kagman was ahead by a deuce, 71-69, and had possession in the last 4.3 seconds of the fourth quarter. Jimmy Brel inbounded the ball from midcourt on the right sideline and threw the ball to Jesse Iguel.

But the pass was too strong and it went past Iguel's hands and landed a few inches away from MHS' front court. Tudela picked up the loose ball and with the clocking wining down had a presence of mind of pulling up for a jumper at the top key near the free throw line.

He made the basket and sent

See DOLPHINS on Page 34

The Dolphins' Zack Tudela drives against two Kagman defenders and later made a buzzer-beating jumper that sent the MHS-KHS tiff into overtime Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

A-Mess

Santa Claus is a cheater. The Easter Bunny is a liar. And the Tooth Fairy cannot be trusted.

Sorry, folks, that's just the world we live in nowadays.

All this time I considered Alex Rodriguez to be the anti-Barry B*nds. A-Rod did not need performance enhancement drugs. He even said so. I took him for his word over Jose Canseco's. Guess that makes me the fool and Canseco the god-awful truth. Jeesh!

Truth is, I wanted to believe Alex.

Unlike B*nds, McGwire, and Canseco, Rodriguez did not swell to grotesque proportions. His numbers did not suddenly become Ruthian. In fact, a look at his power numbers before 2001 and after 2003, the three years he admitted taking PED's, reveals nothing statistically unusual.

As a drug-free 22-year-old, he hit 42 homers with 124 RBIs. As a 27-year-old juicer, he had a similar 47/118. In 2007 (presumably juice-free although since he openly lied before, we really don't know) he clubbed 54 ding dongs, second highest in his career not far behind 57 in 2002.

How much did the drugs help him? On the surface, I'd say, not much. So what? That's not the point. He is now tainted more than China milk products. Doesn't matter if he goes way past 800. When he passes B*nds on the all-time home run list, people will remember the 'roids, recall Hank Aaron and not celebrate what should be considered the biggest career accomplishment in baseball history. Oh yeah, that's why the Yankees spent the big bucks—to have him in pinstripes for that moment which now goes from being hallowed to hollow.

Will Rodriguez go from being one of the greatest players of all-time to someone who can't even make the Hall of Fame? Look at the sorry HOF vote total for McGwire. B*nds is a better analogy because he was arguably great before he got the cream but I do not believe he would get the necessary 75 percent approval if the vote was taken today.

Will we feel the same way, say, nine years from now? We are a forgiving nation, that's for sure, but the whole era is so tainted as to be rendered statistically meaningless.

And that is sad for true baseball fans who eat stats for breakfast.

He pleads that he was in a "loosey-goosey" culture. True, the 2001 Rangers had certified juicers Canseco, Raphael Palmeiro, Ken Caminiti, Ruben Sierra, et al. and it was not technically against the rules, thanks to their union. While the rest of world sport adopted prohibitions and testing, union bigwig Donald Fehr outmaneuvered $17.5 million dollar man Bud Selig to allow illegal drug use that created an unlevel playing field.

How rampant was the problem? According to reports, 104 tested positive in 2003 out of almost 1,200 tested, or roughly 8 percent. In my opinion, that is significant but not gross as 92 percent of anything is high. But some drugs go undetected and there is no reliable test for human growth hormone, so that number is a minimum.

There's no reason to get into the appropriateness of releasing test results. When A-Roid took the test in 2003, he never expected the results would be made available to the public after signing an agreement for confidentiality and anonymity. None of that matters anymore.

It's like whoever took that photo of Michael Phelps sucking on a bong at a party. Phelps never thought that one of his fellow stoners would betray him like that and put him at the center of media spotlight. We don't know who it was.

But we know who threw Rodriguez under the team bus. It was Fehr and Selig for not destroying the results as soon as they got what they wanted which was a number. They didn't care about names. But we do.

What a mess.